

Two injured in new London blast

MANCHESTER, England (R) — A bomb exploded Sunday near the homes of Libyans in the northern city of Manchester in a second spate of attacks on Arab targets in Britain in two days. Police said the blast injured no-one but added that a woman and child were hurt when a bomb disposal team carried out a controlled explosion on a second device found nearby. Police said Arabs, including Libyans, lived nearby and one report said the second bomb was left on a windowsill of a three-storey building housing an estimated 20 Libyans. In 1980, two Libyan exiles were killed in London after a revolutionary committee in Libya decided to "liquidate" unnamed exiled opponents of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. At about the same time, a Libyan student was stabbed to death in Manchester and fellow Libyans said it was probably because he had criticised the Libyan leader and his government.

British warns Libya over blast, page 8

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الراي"

Boy wounded in W.Bank riots

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A seven-year-old boy was injured when Israeli troops used tear gas and opened fire to break up a demonstration in Balata Palestinian refugee camp near Nablus in the occupied West Bank, military sources said. The sources said the boy was apparently injured by a ricochet. The demonstrators burned tyres and shouted slogans in support of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, currently in Jordan. The army imposed a curfew on the camp, which houses some 11,000 refugees. In the occupied Gaza Strip, a firebomb was thrown at an Israeli patrol in the main street of Gaza city, the state radio reported. There were casualties or damages in the incident.

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FAO conference opens in Aden

ADEN, South Yemen (AP) — South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Muhammad opened the 17th regional United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation Conference here on Sunday. Delegates from 26 countries are taking part in the conference, which is expected to last for five days. At the opening session, Mr. Muhammad welcomed the conferees and wished them success in their work. Edouard Saouta, the director general of FAO, said in his opening address that worldwide military expenditures total almost \$800 billion annually, exceeding the total debt burden of all developing countries.

Assad appoints 3 vice-presidents

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad of Syria Sunday appointed three vice-presidents including his brother, defence forces commander Rifaat Al Assad, the official Syrian News Agency SANA said. The other two vice-presidents are long-time foreign minister Abdul Halim Khaddam and the assistant regional secretary of the ruling Arab Socialist Baath Party, Zuhair Masharqa. President Assad also issued a decree requesting the formation of a new government under Prime Minister Abdul Rauf Al Kasbi.

Assad, Aliyev, hold talks

DAMASCUS (R) — Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister Geidar Aliyev had talks Sunday with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, the official Syrian News Agency SANA said. Mr. Assad and Mr. Aliyev, the highest-ranking Soviet official to visit Syria since 1980, discussed bilateral co-operation in various fields, the international situation, the Middle East and other matters of mutual interest. SANA said, Mr. Aliyev delivered a letter to Mr. Assad from Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko, it added. He was expected to meet the Syrian president again Monday. Mr. Aliyev, on a three-day visit, earlier had his second round of formal talks with Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam.

S.Africa ready to meet SWAPO in Namibian talks

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa said Sunday it was willing to take part in a peace conference attended by the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) among other parties concerned with Namibia (South West Africa) and Angola.

Indian border troops on alert

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian troops guarding the country's sensitive Kashmir border with Pakistan have been ordered to be "alert and more vigilant" because of extraordinary military activities by Pakistan, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Sunday. PTI said the troops commander, Lieutenant General P.N. Hoon, told reporters the activities called for "extraordinary vigilance" on the part of India.

Arafat says differences between PLO, Jordan have been removed

By Lamin K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Sunday said that "differences between Jordan and the PLO have been bypassed" and a joint PLO-Jordanian action will materialise soon.

Speaking at a press conference here, Mr. Arafat expressed satisfaction at the results of the Jordanian-PLO talks. "We have overcome all the differences that existed in the past," he said.

Mr. Arafat said that the current talks, which are "a continuation of last February's talks" were developing and a joint action will materialise in the near future. Last February's round of talks, which were a revival of the dialogue between Jordan and the PLO after a 10-month stall, concluded with a basic agreement to continue talks on developing a joint strategy to solve the Palestinian question.

The PLO leader strongly attacked U.S. policy in the Middle East saying that the failure of American policies in Lebanon "is an evidence that the U.S. cannot impose its will upon the Arab people."

The Palestinian leader was referring to the withdrawal of the American Marines, who were part of a four-nation Multi-National Forces (MNF) sent to Beirut which also included units from Britain, France and Italy, and to Lebanese President Amin Gemayel's decision to abrogate the May 17 Lebanese Israeli treaty.

Mr. Arafat said that his talks with Jordanian officials covered issues relating to the development of a joint plan of action to solve the Palestinian problem, the situation in the Israeli occupied Arab territories and efforts to put an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Earlier in the day the PLO leader and his accompanying team held a working session with Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat and other Jordanian officials. The Jordanian side included Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkiat Mahmoud. The Palestinian side included PLO Executive Committee member Hamed Abu Sittih and the executive committee representative in Amman Brigadier Abdul Razak Al Yahya.

Mr. Arafat said that the talks also covered "plans to dispatch joint Jordanian-PLO delegations to Arab and foreign countries" in efforts to canvass international support for the Palestinian cause.

The Palestinian leader, however, refrained from specifying the exact destination of these delegations.

Mr. Arafat, who arrived in Amman Saturday, has met with His Majesty King Hussein and Chinese President Li Xiannian who is currently on an official visit to Jordan.

Mr. Arafat said that his talks with the Chinese President focused on China's "stable and continuous support for the Palestinian cause."

He said that Mr. Li has reiterated China's support for all Arab summit resolutions concerning the Palestinian question including the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The government of Peking, said Mr. Arafat, "is satisfied with the positive results of the PLO-Jordan talks."

Mr. Arafat revealed that he has accepted an official invitation from Mr. Li to visit China. "I intend to visit China soon," he said.

The PLO chairman said that the PLO Executive Committee has formed a special team to prepare for the convening of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

The team includes Mr. Arafat, the head of the PLO political department, Mr. Farouk Al Kadoumi, Mr. Abdul Rahim Ahmad, and Mr. Jamal Al Sourani.

But Mr. Arafat said that Fateh has taken a decision to continue the dialogue with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) to resolve the differences. "Discussion between Fateh and the two organisations are continuing."

Meanwhile, Fateh Central Committee member Mr. Salah Khalaf, popularly known as Abu Iyad was quoted Saturday in Kuwait as saying: "A meeting between the leadership of the three factions will take place soon in South Yemen." He said that Mr. Arafat was also expected to be there.

Mr. Arafat said that all factions, including those who supported the rebels in their battle against his leadership last year in the north Lebanese town of Tripoli, are entitled to attend the PNC meeting.

"I am a democratic man, and I shall not prevent any faction from attending," he said. "But it is up to the PNC to tackle the issue of those who fought against the revolution in Tripoli."

A Syrian backed rebellion against Mr. Arafat's leadership culminated in heavy battles in and around Tripoli which forced the PLO chairman and 4,000 of his supporters to leave north Lebanon last December.

Mr. Arafat, however, said that reconciliation efforts between PLO and Syria are underway "through an Arab country" and other "Arab and non-Arab friends."

Efforts to convene the PNC, the Palestine parliament in exile, have failed due to differences between Fateh, the biggest Palestinian commando group, and the other Palestinian groups, which surfaced after Mr. Arafat's unexpected visit to Cairo last December.

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His Majesty King Hussein and visiting Chinese President Li Xiannian Sunday visit the Jordanian military exhibition at the Royal Jordanian Air Force Headquarters (Petra photo)

Hussein, Li visit Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, Chinese President Li Xiannian and his wife arrived here Sunday afternoon for a two-day stay.

They were met at the airport by the Aqaba district governor, the mayor, local officials and senior military officers.

During their stay in Aqaba members of the Chinese delegation will make a tour of local factories including the Jordan Fer-

tiliser Industry Company to inspect their work and production. Later they will tour archaeological and tourist sites in the Aqaba region.

Before going to Aqaba, the Chinese president and the accompanying delegation visited the Jordanian military exhibition held by the armed forces at the Royal Jordanian Air Force headquarters.

On display are different types of

weapons used by the Jordanian land and air forces.

The delegation was met by King Hussein who toured the exhibition with the president.

Also attending were Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleh and other senior officers.

Heavy fighting reported in Gulf

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi army has electrified marshlands to cut off Iranian defenders on the oil-bearing Majnoon Island and casualties are believed very high in continued heavy fighting there, diplomatic sources said Sunday.

Meanwhile, Iraq announced that Arab foreign Ministers would hold an emergency meeting here on Tuesday to discuss "the grave situation" which the three-and-a-half-year-old Gulf war has reached.

The Iraqis now have Iranian

forces surrounded on three sides of the artificial island and have electrified the remaining strip of marsh water which Iranian reinforcements and supplies must cross, the sources said.

They said that even by the standards of the Gulf conflict, in which the overall death toll is in the tens of thousands, casualties on both sides in the last three weeks of fighting, following an Iranian offensive, have been extremely high.

Arab League Secretary-

General Chadli Klibi was due in Baghdad to prepare for Tuesday's emergency meeting of the league's foreign ministers to discuss the escalating conflict.

According to Iraq's Official News Agency INA, 15 of the 22 league members have agreed to attend the meeting "to deal with the grave situation which threatens the whole Arab region."

Iraq attacked the Geneva-based International Committee of

(Continued on page 3)

Jordan holds by-elections today

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — People in the East Bank will go to the polls Monday to elect eight deputies to fill the vacant seats in the Lower House of Parliament.

One hundred and two candidates will be contesting for the seats which became vacant as a result of deaths over the past 10 years.

Citizens will cast their votes for the first time in 13 years. The last elections being held in 1967 for a parliament which was suspended in 1974.

The total number of candidates for the parliamentary by-election in all constituencies in the East Bank reached to 103 until Saturday.

One of the four contestants from Tafleh district Sunday withdrew his nomination due to cla-

shes with one of the opponents' family, resulting in the death of one person.

The withdrawal was a precautionary measure to avoid exacerbation of family feuds.

Thirty-six nominees will be contesting the Amman governorate seat, with 19 for the Irbid seat, 27 for the three Balqa seats, 16 for the two Karak seats and three for the Tafleh seat.

The total number of registered voters, both male and female in various governorates, is 558,581, of which 237,401 are registered in Amman, 17,365 in Tafleh, 64,412 in Karak, 93,726 in Balqa and the rest in Irbid.

Citizens are to cast their votes in 794 polling centres, of which 375 are in Amman, 207 in Irbid, 127 in Balqa, 95 in Tafleh and 90 in Karak.

Election booths will be open

from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the maximum extension beyond this period will be two hours.

In a statement given to Jordan Times and Al Ra'i newspapers, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar said that right after the election booths are closed, the election committees in various governorates will seal the ballot boxes and hand them over to vote-counting committees.

Mr. Arar said that the vote-counting committees are made up of court judges headed by a chief judge in each constituency.

The governor, in each constituency, Mr. Arar said will announce the results, giving the number of votes cast for each candidate.

The official results will be announced by the prime minister within 48 hours, Mr. Arar concluded.

Candidates stress Palestinian issue, political freedoms and public services

Jordanians vote today to elect eight new members of the Lower House of Parliament. This is the second of two articles on issues raised by individual candidates in their election campaign. The first article appeared in yesterday's Jordan Times.

By Afifah A. Kaloti
and Sakaneh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Dr. Fawzi Daoud, 39, is the youngest candidate running for the vacant Christian seat in the Balqa constituency in today's parliamentary elections. Dr. Daoud has a B.A. in psychology from the University of Jordan and an M.A. and PhD in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology.

The Jordanian economy gets priority in Dr. Daoud's announced programme: "I emphasise the negative effect of the economic depression in Jordan and the uneven distribution of the basic medical, social and educational services," he noted.

"We definitely also have to pay attention to education policy and must try to improve the living conditions of teachers and government employees in general,"

he added. "The role of women in society should not be treated in a superficial manner and we have to be more aggressive in order to allow the participation of women in the various fields of development," Dr. Daoud said.

He pointed out that political parties are one way of developing national unity and that they could form the basis of enhancing a feeling of belonging and commitment to the country.

The absence of democratic life in Jordan, Dr. Daoud continued, has created a gap between the individual and the instruments of authority. This gap, he added, has to be narrowed by allowing people to express themselves in order to avoid the feeling of alienation. "If parliament cannot close this gap, it will be nothing but an empty institution," he said.

Candidates slightly differ from each other in what they say in their election programmes about sol-

ving problems. "What differentiates one candidate from another, is their approach and method of handling these problems," Dr. Daoud said. He added: "We have to study them, collect facts and justify them before concluding a comprehensive evaluation."

Dr. Daoud described the forthcoming elections as different in the sense that there are new variables involved: Youth and women.

"The accumulated awareness of the past 20 years and the growth witnessed in the society will be decisive factors in electing representatives for the people," he said. "It's the beginning on the way to a more liberal, democratic election in the future," he added.

Just like other candidates, Ghaaleb Abu Jaber is facing tough competition from Dr. Jamal Al Shaer, Mr. Raja'i Muasher, Dr. Fawzi Daoud and others running for the vacant Christian seat to represent the Balqa Governorate.

In his Amman office Mr. Abu Jaber daily receives representatives of the large families and tribes in Salt, his hometown,



Suleiman Irteimeh

and draws up with them policies to attract as many votes to his side as possible.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Abu Jaber said: "I am 100 per cent sure I will win the March 12 elections." He did not show any concern to the other competing candidates. "They do not stand a chance," he added.

What is really astonishing is that almost every single one of the candidates running for the vacant Christian seat says he is absolutely sure he will be the winner, but



Fawzi Daoud

what is still more astonishing is what candidates claim they will achieve if elected. A voter told the Jordan Times: "They are giving promises even heads of state would have to think twice before giving."

Mr. Abu Jaber if elected promises to call for the abrogation of the martial law imposed on the country since 1967, the legalising and organising of political parties, achieving equality between men and women, free education, more seats for Jordanians in uni-

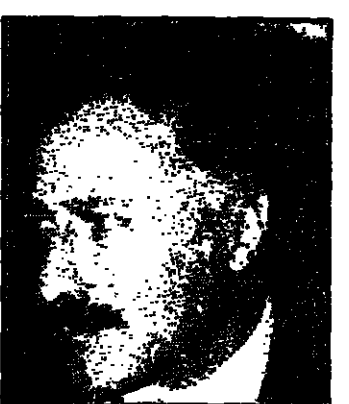


Ghaaleb Abu Jaber

versities, Arab unity, freedom of speech, better job opportunities, and in short, to make Jordan a model country in the Middle East.

Mr. Abu Jaber gives education a priority. "We need a new educational policy for our students," he says. "Education should be developed in a way to increase the feeling of belonging to the nation in the hearts of students," he adds.

"There should be a solution for the brain drain from Jordan," Mr. Abu Jaber asserts, adding that priority should be given to Jor-



Tayel Al Fayed

dans and Palestinians in job opportunities and they should be paid higher salaries.

Talking about Jordan's foreign policy, he said: "We will be friendly with our friends and hostile with our enemy." He condemned the United States policy in the Middle East and its support for Israel.

Survey predicts 30,500 qualified VTC hopes to more than double number of apprentices in country

AMMAN (J.T.) — A survey prepared by a team of specialists headed by Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul Jabbar reveals that by the year 1990, Jordan will have 30,500 engineers, nearly 80 per cent of whom will be employed in the Amman Governorate.

The survey, which bases its figures on statistics gathered from the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA), the Department of Statistics (DS) and other sources was prepared by specialists from the Ministry of Public Works which employs a large proportion of the total of engineers, the Civil Service Commission, which is responsible for the appointment of civil servants, the JEA, the Amman Chamber of Industry and Engineers employed in the country.

According to the study, the construction sector in Jordan has increased its activities immensely over the last decade, employing nearly 14 per cent of the country's total work force.

It said that investment in housing projects, industrial, agricultural and tourist facilities as

well as the construction of airports, sea port facilities and government buildings and installations and private homes has increased considerably in the past 10 years.

This increase was the motive for many young people to pursue higher studies both here and abroad in the engineering field, the study says.

No doubt the appearance of foreign companies operating in Jordan, the opening of engineering and consultancy firms in the country has also made an impact in this respect, the report says.

Two part study

The survey is being published in two parts, the first of which outlines the volume of engineering work in the construction business, the number of engineers in the East Bank and their experiences and educational backgrounds.

The second part, which is to be published soon, will tackle public sector construction, sources of finance, the implementation of pro-

jects and other related topics.

According to the first part of the work, the public sector employs 50.3 per cent of engineers in various government institutions, universities and research centres.

The rest are being employed by consultancy firms (16.4 per cent), contracting companies (15.2 per cent) industrial companies (15.8 per cent) as well as banks, educational institutions and hotels which together employ nearly 2.3 per cent.

It also reveals that Jordan has 94 female engineers of whom 59 are employed by the public sector, and that nearly 420 foreign and non-Jordanian engineers work in the country, most of whom are Egyptians.

Other nationalities include: Syrian, Iraqi, Lebanese, Sudanese, Algerian and Palestinian engineers.

The British form the biggest number of foreign engineers in the country, followed by the Chinese.

The public sector employs nearly half of the non-Jordanian engineers.

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-General of the Labour Ministry's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Munther Al Masri said here Sunday that the corporation's current five-year development plan provides for the establishment of 10 major vocational training centres and 13 smaller ones in different parts of the country.

He said that more than half of these centres have already been completed and work on the rest will end with in two years' time.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Masri said that with the completion of these new centres, VTC hopes to increase the number of apprentices and trainees from the present figure of 6,000 to 15,000.

According to Mr. Masri, nearly 25 per cent of Jordanian students complete their preparatory education and then are channelled to

vocational education, but he said, the number of students seeking vocational training should increase gradually as the development requirements of the country in turn grow.

Also, the type of training and programmes should be amended with a view to ensuring a higher level of training, Mr. Masri added.

Lack of skills

The drive to increase the vocational schools and training centres in Jordan is due to the fact that the country lacks skilled workers, especially in the agricultural and construction sectors, now manned

by non-Jordanians, Mr. Masri said.

In comparison, he added Jordan has a surplus of university graduates, but who cannot handle jobs that require skill and special vocational training.

Mr. Masri believes that Jordan will be self-sufficient in skilled labour in a few years time.

In addition to the vocational centres, the VTC holds short training courses to help raise the level of workers' skill.

Besides the VTC, the Ministry of Education also caters for vocational training in Jordan, Mr. Masri said.

Romanian envoy delivers message

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Sunday received the Romanian Ambassador in Amman Andrei Cerencovici who conveyed to him a verbal message from the Romanian prime minister.

Alia orders new effluent treatment plant for airport

AMMAN (J.T.) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has ordered a new effluent treatment plant for the new airport.

Pollution Control of Telford in the English Midlands, is to provide two water treatment systems for the new Queen Alia International Airport 30 kilometres to the south of here.

The equipment, worth more than £151,000, will handle effluent from a recently-built aircraft engine cleaning workshop and from an overhaul electroplating facility planned for the future.

An ion-exchange system is designed to treat waste water for recirculation and a chemical treatment system prepares other effluent for discharge to drainage.

Pollution Control claims to be one of Britain's leading specialists in plant for effluent and water treatment.

The company also supplies equipment for electroplating and other electro-chemical processes.

Bahraini social workers attend training course

AMMAN (Petra) — Six female social workers from Bahrain are among a group of social workers who are attending a training course on ways of treating mentally handicapped and deaf-impaired children which opened at the Institute of Social Work Sunday.

In the month-long course, participants will be given theoretical and practical training in various methods of dealing with handicapped and retarded children who are cared for by various institutions.

They will also tour a number of these institutions in Jordan.

Among the participants are university graduates with degrees in psychology, sociology and education.

Intermediate management training seminar begins

AMMAN (Petra) — A 40-day training course on intermediate management opened Sunday at the Institute of Public Administration (IPA).

The course, which was opened by IPA Director Abdullah Elayan, is aimed at increasing the participants' level of information and developing their supervisory skills as well as raising their standard of efficiency.

It also aims to increase the participants' familiarity with various methods of scientific research, acquaint them with the relevant legislations in that field and with specialised areas of activity like administrative organisation, financial administration.

They will also be briefed during the course on the major principles and projects enshrined within successive national development plans.

Lectures on the course will deal with topics related to the social security law in which its many provisions will be outlined, financial policy in Jordan, the new income tax law, the civil service law, general wages policy and economic development.

Taking part in the course are 20 participants drawn from government ministries and other sectoral organisations.

Phone call unit charge periods to increase

AMMAN (J.T.) — The duration of one local telephone call unit in Jordan will from now on be six minutes in accordance with a new computerised system which controls the electronic telephone exchanges.

Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Director-General Mohammad Sha'id Ismail said, in accordance with the new system, any subsequent call unit or part of will be regarded as a complete additional call and will thus be

added to the subscriber's service charge as such.

Under the old system, the first call unit lasted for nine minutes and subsequent ones for six minutes.

However, the rate to be charged for a single local call will remain unchanged at 10 fils.

The new arrangement, he said, will go into force once the announcement has been published in the official gazette.

Chicken shortage to end by April, says official

AMMAN (Petra) — The current shortage of fresh chicken in the local market is expected to end by the end of this month, according to the director of the animal health and production department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Abdul Ghani Al Nahar.

He attributed the shortage to the effects of Newcastle disease which has affected a number of

farms over the last three months causing farmers to suspend poultry farming.

He also reaffirmed that the disease has been brought under control by departmental vets.

Dr. Nahar said that 4 million eggs for hatching chickens will be imported to make up for the shortage of the fowl.

Military medicine talks inaugurated in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The director of the Jordanian Armed Forces Royal Medical Services, Dr. Daoud Hanania, chaired here Sunday the opening session of an international conference on military medicine.

Altogether 40 physicians and medical specialists from seven countries are taking part in the conference which will review nearly 100 working papers dealing with injuries sustained in battle and particularly those affecting the spinal cord and plastic surgery.

Medical specialists will also discuss modern trends in dealing with tuberculosis and the effects of chemical weapons on troops.

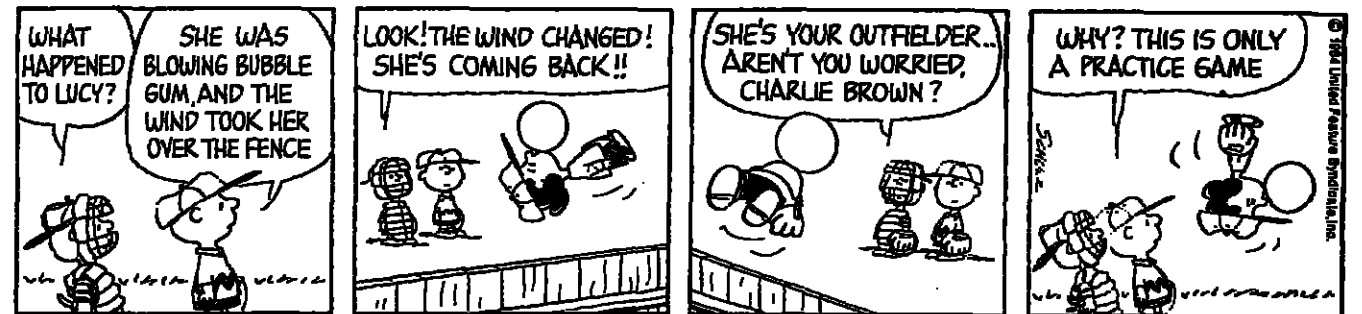
The specialists, who are drawn

from Jordan, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, East Germany, Greece, France and Great Britain, also held a general discussion about the 15 working papers which were reviewed at the morning session.

Also an international pharmaceutical exhibition was opened in Baghdad to run parallel to the symposium which will also deal in detail with pharmacy related topics.

Among the various pharmaceutical products on display are samples from Jordan and Iraq and nearly 50 other companies from around the world.

Medical equipment and instruments are also on display.



Musical of Charlie Brown to delight families

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — What will New York, London and Amman have in common next week? The unlikely answer is that all three cities will be simultaneously staging the musical production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown", a lively and entertaining show based on the characters in the cartoon strip "Peanuts".

Due to open at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) next week, Charlie Brown is the first musical production of its kind to be staged here and it will provide a complete contrast to the recent classical piano recitals held at the centre.

The colourful set and the bright clothes of the cast, together with the catchy songs and funny quips, cannot fail to delight adults and children alike as a day in the life of Charlie Brown and his friends is

enacted on the stage.

The show's director, Vanessa Batrouni, said that the idea of staging a musical was initiated over a year ago and that, due to the support and enthusiasm from the RCC, the idea began to materialise.

She also said that the Royal Theatre Club (RTC), under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, agreed to sponsor the show as a part of their aim to promote all aspects of theatre in Jordan.

No script!

With the technical facilities and rehearsal space provided by the RCC and the financial support of the RTC, the stage was set for the production, but there was no script.

Mrs. Batrouni said that the cast

Abdul Jabbar moves draft proposal

Resolution to ALO condemns Israel's settlement policy

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan Sunday called on the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) conference here to condemn Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories and its violations of freedoms and the rights of Arab labour unions.

It also urged the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to put an end to Israeli practices in the Arab territories, offer all forms of assistance to Arab labourers under Israeli rule and to promote social and economic life in order to enable the Arab population to face the adverse effects of these arbitrary policies.

Jordan's call was contained in a draft resolution presented to the conference by Jordan's chief delegate, Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul Jabbar.

Iraq, Lebanon and Tunisia helped in drawing up the draft resolution, Dr. Abdul Jabbar said.

According to the minister, the resolution calls on Arab states to take all necessary measures to stop the implementation of a resolution issued by the ILO office accepting Israel as a member of the ILO's Asian group.

"This illegal and unconstitutional resolution is a flagrant defiance of the will of the Asian group which refuses to be associated with Israel," Dr. Abdul Jabbar added.

The resolution also calls on Arab representatives at the ILO headquarters in Geneva to work to abort this resolution.

According to Dr. Abdul Jabbar, the resolution also calls on the ILO to re-open its regional office in Beirut so that more attention can be given to the Arab area and more funds be allocated to the region's projects.

In addition, he said, the resolution calls on Arab states to support the nomination of Jordan's chief delegate to the ILO in Geneva Ghaleb Barakat to the post of ILO assistant director-general in the ILO secretariat.

Earlier, the labour conference resumed its meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. Abdul Jabbar.

The meeting followed two separate meetings by representatives from labour unions and employers associations who are attending the conference.

Discussions at Sunday's meetings centred around the role of Arab countries at future ILO conference.

NEWS IN BRIEF

VOA anniversary display opened

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Information Peter Salah, a reception was held Sunday in the main lobby of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel to open an exhibition marking the 42nd anniversary of the Voice of America (VOA) and the establishment of the VOA regional centre in Amman. The reception was hosted by the director of the United States Information Service and the director of the VOA regional centre in Amman. The display is open to the general public until Thursday, March 15, 1984.

Traders fined for infringing supply rules

AMMAN (Petra) — Forty two traders were fined JD 30 each for violating the Ministry of Supply regulations. The military governor endorsed Sunday the sentences issued by the military court.

Saket, ambassadors review culture links

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Hikmat Al Saket Sunday received Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Ibrahim Shajir Al Sultan, North Yemen Ambassador in Amman Abdullah Abu Lahoom and Bahraini Ambassador in Amman Abdul Aziz Al Hussein each separately. Educational and cultural relations between Jordan and these countries were the subject of revision at these meetings.

Korean art exhibition opens Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The North Korean embassy in Amman, in co-operation with the Department of Culture and Art, will hold a photographic and books exhibition Tuesday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). The five-day exhibition, to be opened by minister of Youth, Culture and Antiquities, Dr. Abdullah 'Oweidat, will include a collection of photographs and books portraying the state of art in and intellectual output from North Korea.

Lebanon talks resume today

(Continued from page 1)

west, the Lebanese army and Falangist forces on the east, were using light to medium weapons.

Fighting also flared on the mountain front to the southeast where mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) fighters have been pressing in on an army salient around the ridge town of Souq Al Gharb, 15 kilometres from the centre of the capital.

Most of the clashes were con-

fined to areas deserted by civilians and there were no immediate reports of casualties.

In widespread shelling of residential areas Saturday at least 14 people were killed and more than 70 wounded, security sources said. In one incident, seven people died when a shell hit a clinic in the southern township of Khaldia, they added.

Heavy hail and thunderstorms kept the combatants indoors Sunday morning but the fighting resumed when the skies cleared

about midday.

Little territory has changed hands since Feb. 15, when the Syrian-backed opposition militias crowned a successful week-long campaign by storming the town of Damour, on the coast 20 kilometres south of Beirut.

The campaign came close to toppling Mr. Gemayel, who shortly afterwards gave in to Syrian demands that he scrap Lebanon's May 17 troop withdrawal agreement with Israel.

Heavy fighting reported in Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

the Red Cross (ICRC) Sunday for suggesting Iraq had used chemical weapons against Iranian forces in recent Gulf war fighting.

A memorandum from the Iraqi Foreign Ministry accused the ICRC of "a biased political stand" and reiterated earlier denials that Iraq had used chemical weapons. The all-Swiss ICRC said last week its representatives in Iran had visited Iranian war casualties and that the nature of their wounds "leads to the presumption of the recent use of substances prohibited by International Law."

Sunday's Iraqi memorandum, sent to ICRC representatives in Baghdad, was published by the official Iraqi News Agency.

It said Iraq did not use chemical weapons and "to prove this fact, Iraq is fully ready to co-operate with any neutral side in investigating these allegations."

The International Red Cross statement "completely contradicted the role entrusted to the ICRC by the Geneva Conventions," the Iraqi memorandum said.

The memorandum said Iraq suspected that the casualties exa-

mined by Red Cross teams in Iran were either Iraqi prisoners of war or members of Iranian opposition groups or that they sustained their wounds somewhere other than on the Gulf war fronts.

The ICRC could not be sure that the wounds had been suffered on the war battlefields and "must not depend on allegations made by the Iranian side," the note said.

Iran had in the past prevented the International Red Cross from exercising its tasks with regard to Iraqi prisoners of war in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, it said.

Candidates stress Palestinian issue

(Continued from page 1)

will support it.

"If they decided to solve their problem by peaceful means, we will endorse that and if they decided to resort to armed struggle, they will get our full support and help."

Mr. Abu Jabbar, 57, has a B.A. in history from the Beirut University College (BUC) and served 25 years as assistant under secretary at the Ministry of Public Works and later assumed the position of director of tourism for three years at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities during the seventies.

Every candidate is aware that youth in Jordan form the bulk of the voting mass in the country, and hence special concern is given by candidates to this particular sector in the society.

A National Consultative Council (NCC) member for the last three consecutive sessions, Sulaiman Irteimeh, is one of the 36 candidates contesting for the Amman seat.

Mr. Irteimeh, 59, in an interview with the Jordan Times focused in his election manifesto equally on all walks of life, politics, social environment and economics.

Mr. Irteimeh said that the Jordanian Armed Forces are the country's shield and their strength should be maintained. "The army is the glimmering hope to retain our lands," he said.

The Palestinian cause, Mr. Irteimeh said, "is the central issue and retaining the rights to the Palestinians is a national duty and should be attained without surrender."

He said that good relations within the one Jordanian-Palestinian family is a "definite necessity."

Mr. Irteimeh focussed also on the country's youngsters and described them as the nation's future hopes and hence they should be assured of jobs according to their qualifications and specialisations.

He stressed that all services should be fairly distributed among all citizens "wherever they are, whether in cities, or villages, or rural areas, or camps."

"Villages and rural areas are our real roots and we should go back there after providing them with facilities of modern life," he

said. "Women," he said, "should be partners of men in both work and fate."

Mr. Irteimeh said women should be given equal chances in education as men so as to excel in their roles as citizens, housewives, and mothers.

Referring to agriculture, industry and commerce, Mr. Irteimeh said that these three sectors should be strengthened and promoted.

He said agriculture should be put under an organised plan that would guarantee the farmers rights and to promote the country's prosperity.

Commenting on national industries, he said they should be encouraged and supported against foreign competitors.

Merchants also should be encouraged and supported, for "they were the ones to open the doors to the world for our industries and trade."

Regarding education, Mr. Irteimeh cited concern for teachers and called for more establishment of libraries in villages and cities.

He said that teachers are responsible for "our generations and hence their living condition should be promoted."

The educational and cultural movement as well as sports should be supported.

The retired people, whether from the military or the civilian sector, should be treated fairly and their situation improved. "Job opportunities should be given to retired people, the ones who are able to work."

Corruption and bribery should be put to an end because they are obstacles to the development and prosperity of the country, Mr. Irteimeh said.

Yasef Al Fayez, a businessman owning a contracting company, said that he nominates himself not to take pride in the post, but merely and genuinely to serve the people.

Mr. Fayez, 46, in his campaign programme, calls for political stability. His political aim is to establish a Palestinian state in a federal unity. "We will support the establishment of any Palestinian state the Palestinians call for," he said.

Mr. Fayez, brother of the spe-

aker of the Lower House of Parliament, Akaf Al Fayez, in an interview with the Jordan Times stressed that the mutual understanding between the Jordanians and the Palestinians should be maintained.

Mr. Fayez said that the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories should be supported financially and morally.

He called for more assistance from the oil producing countries to the people under Israeli occupation.

Regarding job opportunities, Mr. Fayez said that foreign labour should be restricted, giving more chances for local workers. "Importing foreign labour should only be acceptable in fields that lack Jordanian workers."

He added that bilateral relations among Arab countries in exchanging labourers should be protected and promoted.

Local industry should be encouraged and supported provided "it is under supervision and of good quality."

Mr. Fayez said that national industry should be developed in order to be in an export status.

In respect to the military service, Mr. Fayez said that it is an honourable service but the duration of the service should be reduced.

He said our defence capability and proper training should be preserved.

Mr. Fayez said, electricity, water, and proper roads should be provided for all cities and villages.

Agriculture, Mr. Fayez said, should be promoted and a comprehensive policy should be established.

Concerning working women, Mr. Fayez said that they should be provided with more facilities, "the most important of which is the establishment of proper and healthy nursery schools."

Jordan, he said, should also focus its attention on public places and gardens "so as people could enjoy themselves."

Mr. Fayez in his manifesto calls for fighting the high cost of living. Mr. Fayez said that he does not believe in slogans, and that his principle in life is honesty. "No word is of value unless it is put into practice."

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Fine day for Jordan

TODAY ushers in a new stage in our political life with Jordanians voting to elect eight new members to the Lower House of Parliament. The members will effectively complete the number of 60 deputies in the House which remained inactive until January since its suspension in 1974.

The by-elections, although limited in scope and area, have caused the candidates to unleash all sorts of slogans and appeals to the electorate to win their votes. These slogans appeared in the form of advertisements in the newspapers or in pamphlets distributed to citizens in the various constituencies. The fact that so many personalities have nominated themselves for the elections (116 at the outset) indicates the public's thirst for true democratic life and parliamentary rule. Had there been a general election, the political advertisements, the manifestos and the emotions would have definitely assumed much more elaborate proportions and the number of candidates would undoubtedly have increased manifold. The leaflets that reached the public during the election campaign tackled several issues of concern to the Jordanian citizens ranging from indexing government salaries to inflation, to supporting youth activities and calling for aborting the Reagan initiative for the Middle East. The candidates represented all political and social currents in the Arab World; and their slogans reflected their views and orientations.

In fact most contestants agreed on the need to engineer more progress and development in Jordan, and many of their leaflets appeared to contain programmes promising diligence and hard work for serving the homeland.

The election campaign reaches a climax today as the votes are cast and counted. Whether the hopefuls are sincere in their manifestos or whether the winners will abide by their pledges and promises is something that remains to be seen; one thing is certain though: the government's handling of election affairs has indeed been exemplary and deserves our highest respect and admiration, if only for the true democratic atmosphere that has been provided for all the candidates and the electorate. It is, at any rate, our first experience in democracy and free elections in many years and we are more than satisfied with the way things have gone. May the best man win.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Enemies of their people

IT WAS not surprising to hear the remnants of Village Leagues in the occupied West Bank giving up in despair and dissolving themselves. Ever since they had been set up by the Israeli authorities, they had been booked down to by the Arab population as spy agencies for their Zionist masters, and so they remained isolated from the people. Members of the village leagues were considered as outlaws and therefore, wanted by law in Arab countries, because they cannot continue to play the role of a tool for the enemy and go unpunished. The Israelis had wanted to see the Village Leagues assume the role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), but their real role was exposed by the Arab population, and their ambitions thwarted by the steadfastness of our kinsmen struggling under the occupation rule.

Perhaps the last straw which broke the back of the village leagues was represented in the unanimous support which the Arab population had displayed towards the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. That support constituted the death sentence on the village leagues which found that they could not stand any chance at all and they could never twist or change facts about the Arab people's feelings and orientation. The village leagues' decision to disband was a blessing to us, and we hope that the Arabs will benefit from past lessons and continue to thwart enemy plots.

Al Dustour: Living up to the occasion

JORDANIANS in the East Bank go to the polls Monday to elect eight members for the Lower House of Parliament. For Jordanians, March 12 signifies an important stage in their political life because it marks the restoration of free representation and a resumption of democratic life in the country.

Return to parliamentary life requires that the people must act in a responsible manner especially during the voting process in order to display their ability to abide by rules and maintain order and discipline. We have to prove to the outside world and to ourselves that we can live up to democratic life and can carry out our duties and shoulder our various responsibilities in an orderly and civilised manner, reflecting our true culture and civilisation.

Monday's elections serve as a first step towards real and full parliamentary life, and therefore they should be run in a very proper manner to enhance Jordanian self-confidence and people's confidence in their democratic institutions. We hope that all eligible Jordanians will cast ballots Monday in order to display their willingness to shoulder responsibility and to prove their willingness to resume democratic life that the country has lived long without.

Sawi Al Shaab: Gulf states discuss war

THE GULF Co-operation Council is meeting in Riyadh to review the latest developments at the Iraq-Iran battlefield, and discuss means of supporting Iraq in the face of Iran's onslaught on the Arab Nation. The council realises that only Iraq can stand up to the Iranians and thwart their designs and attempts to occupy Arab territory. No doubt the council is now aware that Iran's thrust into Iraqi territory and its occupation of Majnoon island was only a first step in its drive to occupy Arab land and impose domination on Arab people in the Gulf.

The council's meeting is an important event coming on the heels of the Arab League's failure to convene an Arab summit for tackling the Gulf war and a host of other Arab issues. Certain Arab countries which chose to support Iran in the war against their sister Arab state Iraq have succeeded in aborting the Arab League's summit, but they fail to realise that the Iranians are killing their own brothers and sisters, and are aiming at occupying part of their Arab homeland.

The Iranians for their part seem to have forgotten everything about the real objectives of their revolution against the Shah and seem to be concentrating on one thing: occupying Arab territory and extending Iran's hegemony over the Gulf region.

Middle East peace is a world responsibility

By Hugh Caradon

LONDON — We search President Reagan's public statements day by day in hope that he may have learned lessons from the recent terrible events in the Middle East.

There was a time early on when he made the fundamental error of regarding the Middle East situation as a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union. But now it is increasingly realised on all sides that a peace settlement must be sought not by confrontation but by co-operation in the United Nations.

The United States has now accepted the possibility of another United Nations peacekeeping operation in Lebanon, realising that such an operation can be undertaken only if the Soviet Union joins in a United Nations Security Council decision for that purpose. So that at least has been con-

ceded, that a solution cannot be imposed by the United States alone: a peaceful solution can be found only by international initiative.

The other main danger remains. It is the danger that the United States will continue by sending Israel massive supplies of money and arms to support the Likud government in aggressive action against its Arab neighbours. If existing Likud policies continue, then more conflict in the Middle East will become inevitable before long.

The record is indeed extraordinary. The Begin government refused to withdraw Israeli troops from occupied West Bank and Gaza territories when required to do so by the unanimous Security Council Resolution of 1967. On the contrary, it has taken over more and more Palestinian land and water and built scores of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. The

Begin government moreover immediately and flatly rejected President Reagan's proposals made in September of 1982 and its programme of annexation of Palestinian land has proceeded apace ever since.

Then, with or without the knowledge of the United States government, Israeli Defence Minister Sharon undertook and extended the invasion of Lebanon with all its dreadful consequences of bloodshed and suffering. And now the Israeli government unsuccessfully having backed the Falangist faction in Lebanon has declared that it intends to stay in occupation of southern Lebanon.

In all this period the Likud government in Israel has received the financial backing of the United States and was eventually rewarded by the conclusion of the close political and military alliance with the United States only a few months ago.

It is a story of extremist Likud aggression taking the lead and the United States following tamely and obediently in full practical support.

The results have been what might have been expected. In Lebanon the reaction especially on the part of the Muslim majority, has been one of intense opposition leading to Muslim military successes. The Israeli and United States actions have also led to the alienation of Arabs elsewhere, a development which may have very serious long-term consequences for future Middle East peace.

It is instructive to read the statements of King Hussein and President Mubarak following their recent discussions with President Reagan in Washington.

King Hussein at once reaffirmed his main concern. In sending his congratulations to the new Soviet leader, Konstantin

Chernenko, he praised Soviet support for Arab causes. "Jordan and the Arab Nation," he said, "appreciate the positive stand of the Soviet Union in support of Arab causes and legitimate rights, especially the rights of the Palestinians to recover their land and to decide by themselves their future on their national soil. The public message was no doubt intended for President Reagan as well as for Mr. Chernenko."

President Mubarak concentrated on Lebanon. When he left President Reagan he said that the invasion of Lebanon was the "root and cause" of the present situation, and he publicly called for a prompt and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

This may be the last crisis before a new conflict. If the present policies of the Shamir government in Israel continue — policies of continued occupation in Lebanon and

annexation of Palestinian lands in the West Bank and Gaza — further disaster will certainly result, and if President Reagan continues to support such policies the United States will carry the terrible responsibility of future conflict.

It is an international challenge. The independence of Lebanon, the freedom of the Palestinians and the security of Israel are all attainable. Indeed they are dependent on each other. They are results attainable only by international action. We must hope and pray that all concerned have learned their lessons and that the Security Council of the United Nations — especially the permanent members — will rise to the occasion. They must strive, in the words of the unanimous Security Council resolution of 1967, to guarantee "the territorial inviolability and political independence of every state in the area." — Arab News, Jeddah.



Reagan advocates a space shield

By Rodney Pinder

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Like an intercontinental missile rising slowly from its launch pad, a national defence debate with enormous implications for mankind is lifting off in the United States.

The subject is a proposed space defence system informally dubbed, "Star Wars" which could make the intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), now the main instrument of nuclear warfare, as extinct as the dinosaur.

President Reagan and some of his advisers believe a space shield would make the world a safer place. Critics contend it would increase the threat of armageddon, and some say it would make nuclear holocaust inevitable.

Both sides agree the system's cost would be staggering, dwarfing any other arms programme in history. And no one is sure it would work.

Mr. Reagan first outlined the concept last March, when he called for intensive research into space-based defence weaponry that could knock out enemy missiles and satellites and protect the West without fear of nuclear retaliation.

In theory the system would supplant the concept of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD), which many credit with averting war between the nuclear superpowers for more than 30 years.

Controversy has arisen because of the implication that space could



become a battlefield, the staggering development costs and arguments that the United States, by seeking a foolproof defence, would make a pre-emptive war inevitable.

Cost estimates for a complete Star Wars defence by the year 2000 range from \$500 billion to more than \$1 trillion.

Technologies mooted include X-ray lasers powered by nuclear explosions in space, earth-based laser beams reflected at their targets by huge space mirrors and non-nuclear missiles that could destroy incoming warheads.

Behind the wonder of the figures and super-technology, there is widespread concern about where the project will lead an insecure world.

Much of that was aired during a recent debate at the Brookings Institution, a private think tank, where about 150 government and military officials, strategic analysts, arms contractors, scientists and academics discussed the Star Wars concept.

Mr. Reagan's science adviser, George Keyworth, opened the talks saying the president was convinced peace could not be safeguarded by threats of massive retaliation.

"He knows that continuing reliance on improvements in offensive weapons as our sole means of deterrence contributes to a perception of a diminishing future," Mr. Keyworth said.

"He knows that technology is available, or becoming available, to develop effective defences. He is offering... a sense of hope for a stable future where there is little now perceived," he added.

The thesis was challenged fundamentally by Robert Bowman, who directed Star Wars development for the air force from 1976 to 1978 and is now one of the concept's main critics.

History demonstrated, he said, that a weapon developed by one side was soon deployed by another.

"If both sides had space-based directed-energy weapons, the onset of war would be inevitable and immediate," he said.

"Either side could strike at the speed of light, destroying the defences of the other without warning. Whichever side struck first

would have an overwhelming advantage. Under these circumstances, 'Hair Trigger' takes on a whole new meaning."

Other speakers said a space-based system would be highly vulnerable to attack as satellites are easier to shoot down than rockets, and the exotic defence shield could simply be swamped by the weight of missile numbers.

George Rathjens, former chief scientist of the Pentagon's Advanced Research Project Agency, said he feared there had been a dangerous breakdown in the presidential advisory system.

"Does he know that the consensus is that 100 per cent defence is unrealistic? I doubt it and it's scary," he said.

"The president is proposing a technical fix for a basic political problem. Nuclear weapons won't go away and we've got to learn to cope by political means," he said.

But James Fletcher, head of a panel of scientists who submitted a secret report to Reagan last month on the viability of a Star Wars system, said 70 of the nation's top experts had reached a consensus that the idea merited detailed research.

"Nuclear war is the most critical problem of our time and the more we can do to minimise that possibility the better we would all be, on both sides of the 'Iron Curtain,'" he said.

"This will be the big debate of the next two decades," commented the Washington Centre for Defence Information.

'Iron Lady' is reaping a persistent crop of political 'banana skins'

By Harvey Morris

Reuter

LONDON — A persistent crop of political "banana skins" is plaguing Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party, casting doubt on her long-term future.

After a crisis-littered start to her second term, Britain's "iron lady" is looking less sure of herself than at any time since she became prime minister in 1979.

Although aides have tried to dismiss her recent troubles as simply poor presentation of government strategy, some party members are worried that confusion over policy is more deep-seated.

In the space of few weeks the "banana skin" tag has gained popularity as a cliché within Conservative ranks and the opposition to describe the government's apparent inability to turn political victories into public relations defeats.

"It would be going too far to say that the knives are now out for her, wrote Conservative columnist George Gale this week, "but it is quite clear that she is not reigning over us with effortless superiority and unchallenged authority."

Although Mrs. Thatcher has no obvious rivals for the leadership, some Conservative eyebrows were raised this week by a surprise intervention from the party's "kingmaker", Edward Du Cann.

Mr. Du Cann, a party elder with a reputation for making and breaking Conservative leaders, called on Mrs. Thatcher to make a clear statement of strategy to the party and the country.

The prime minister was working too hard and needed a deputy. Mr. Du Cann told a television interviewer, "We've made some mistakes and we've got some lessons to learn and... some of the worries are really very real."

Seizing on the "in" cliché, Mr. Du Cann said of the government's recent embarrassments: "People, when they have been eating bananas, have just chucked the skins down in front of their own feet instead of putting them tidily in the litter bin."

The most recent "banana skin" the government slipped on concerned a decision to ban union membership among some 10,000 staff at an electric spy centre in western England.

Union members tried to resist the ban but, faced with dismissal or transfer if they defied it, the vast majority caved in last week and surrendered their union cards.

Conservative backbenchers, parliamentarians without ministerial rank, decried the outcome a doubtful victory.

Mrs. Thatcher had managed to alienate the entire union movement at a time when relations between government and organised labour were beginning to improve, the backbenchers protested.

They also complained of a lack of government sensitivity in tackling a number of other key measures, starting with a surprise announcement of controversial public spending cuts only a month after Mrs. Thatcher's landslide re-election last June.

Some backbenchers say Mrs. Thatcher has not done enough to involve them in policy-making and that even ministers are kept in the dark about some issues.

"Government isn't just about the exclusive exercise of power, it's about co-operation as well," commented Conservative parliamentarian Hugh Dykes.

Mrs. Thatcher aides are confident she can ride the present storm and have taken to quoting former Prime Minister Harold Wilson's famous phrase that: "A week is a long time in politics."



Mrs. Thatcher

Mrs. Thatcher sought to reassure doubters and rally the party faithful with a statement to parliament this week setting out the government's objectives for the remainder of her term.

They read like the party's election manifesto: "We aim to make Britain strong at home and influential abroad."

Mrs. Thatcher spelled out that she would not be deflected from her monetary course, asserting: "We shall build on the success of our economic policies. We shall continue to work for sound money, lower inflation, lower government borrowing, lower interest rates..."

The government's troubles nevertheless seem to have had an effect on the electorate.

The opposition Labour Party won a by-election comfortably last week and now, for the first time in two years, has nudged ahead of the Conservatives in public opinion polls.

One controversy that refuses to die is the row over her son Mark's business activities. Opposition parliamentarians want to know about his part in securing a construction contract in Oman on behalf of a British company and her own involvement.

They refuse to accept her assurances that her family's business affairs are none of their business. Columnist Gale said it looked like a very slippery banana skin indeed.

Mrs. Thatcher appears to be missing the public relations skills of former aide Cecil Parkinson, who resigned from the cabinet last year after a love affair with his secretary became public.

Mrs. Thatcher was criticised for misreading party and public sentiment in trying to keep him on as trade secretary.

There is now talk in parliament, unconfirmed by Mrs. Thatcher aides, of Mr. Parkinson returning to government later this year to resume his role as crisis-manager.

But some commentators believe the government's problems go deeper than poor public relations.

They detect a drift, during Mrs. Thatcher's second term, away from the uncompromising free enterprise policies of earlier years towards a more make-and-mend style of leadership.

They say Conservative backbenchers are confused because Mrs. Thatcher's robust rhetoric in favour of self-reliance and private endeavour no longer matches her policies.

Expenditure and taxation continue to rise despite Mrs. Thatcher's pledges to reduce both and the government appears to have lost its radical drive, according to its critics.

A commentator in the Spectator magazine wrote of Mrs. Thatcher this week: "She is better at generating excitement than ideas. The truth is that she now has very few."

While Conservatives are not questioning her position as leader, the present rumblings indicate she may be losing some support on the right of the party, her traditional power base.

لبنان في الحاضر

Blossoming bamboo threatens Chinese pandas' existence

By Joy Aschenbach

WASHINGTON — The village grandfathers recall that it last happened during the time of the Long March in the 1930s — bamboo bursting into flower high up in the mountains in the heart of China's panda range. But no one knows for sure.

It is certain that when some mysterious internal clock tells bamboo to blossom, about every 30, 60 or 120 years, it signals danger for the already endangered giant panda.

When bamboo flowers, it dies — within a few years. And it can take five to 10 years for new seedlings to mature. In the meantime, there may be no food for pandas, which live almost exclusively on a few kinds of bamboo.

Arrow in bloom

Arrow bamboo is now flowering more than 8,000 feet up in the Qionglai Mountains of Sichuan Province. It is the principal diet of the 125 to 150 pandas inhabiting China's largest panda reserve, Wolong. The same species, *Arundinaria fangiana*, also is blo-

oming in nearby Baoxing County, where at least 200 more pandas live. Altogether there are only about 1,000 pandas left in the wild in China.

"There's the potential of an emergency," according to Dr. George B. Schaller, co-leader of the panda field research project jointly funded by the World Wildlife Fund and the Chinese government. "The situation must be monitored carefully, and we must prepare to help if pandas can't find alternative sources of bamboo."

About 140 pandas strayed to death in the mid-1970s when another species of bamboo blossomed in another region of China's panda range. That calamity was a major impetus in launching the panda research project, which began in 1980. As China becomes more and more developed, pandas may have an even harder time finding food.

"The pandas in Wolong spend most of their time high up in the mountains where the arrow bamboo grows," says Dr. Julian J.N. Campbell, who was plant ecologist for the World Wildlife project. "Now they will be forced down to

try to eat other kinds growing in the lower regions, but there are people down there too, living right in the reserve. The pandas could be squeezed out."

And pandas need a lot of bamboo. Each panda consumes from 22 to 33 pounds of bamboo a day. Their digestive tracts are able to extract little nutritive value from each plant, which has only about as much nutrition as an onion.

Unexpected flowering

The emergence of the tassel-like brownish blossoms in Wolong was not predicted. "A patch here, a patch there had blossomed in the last few years," says Schaller. "At the end of 1982, only about five per cent was in the process of blooming. Now over 90 per cent of it is in blossom. We knew it was building up to it, but we didn't know it would happen this year."

Why bamboo flowers is still a mystery to scientists. "There's some internal mechanism, with a predetermined cycle. Regardless of the environment, when it's time to flower, it flowers, and we have absolutely no idea what triggers this," says Dr. Thomas R. Soderstrom, curator at the Smithsonian Institution's department of botany.



Giant panda in China's Wolong Natural Reserve crunches a bamboo shoot (N.G. photo)

outside Wolong to determine the extent of flowering elsewhere and the availability of alternative food sources.

Once this survey is complete, says Schaller, "we will know exactly how seriously the pandas will be affected in the next few years." Food may have to be delivered to pandas in certain areas, or the pandas themselves may have to be

trapped and moved to places where bamboo is plentiful.

This year's flowering of arrow bamboo will barely be noticed by the pandas at the National Zoo here. That species is not part of their diet. They eat several varieties of bamboo that are home-grown in gardens in the Washington area. — National Geographic feature.

Randa Habib's Corner

May the best man win

TODAY ALL those of you who are over 20 years of age will elect their representatives to the parliament. Having so many candidates the choice is not easy, especially that all have promised us a better future to such an extent that we are made to believe that paradise has always been near at hand but that we did not know how to reach it. One person alone claims that if he is elected he would "liberate Jerusalem and give back to the Arabs their lost pride" in addition to democracy, a higher standard of living, lower taxes and the abolition of unemployment and religious fanaticism (even though the latter is nonexistent in Jordan).

No candidate has promised us however rainy winters but this might happen one day.

Yes, truly heaven was there but it took someone to point to us how easily we could reach it to make us realize its nearness. A candidate, I was told, went even farther. In a refugee camp in the vicinity of Amman he eloquently said "dear friends, the 'document' of Jerusalem is in my pocket", while saying so he took out a folded paper from his pocket.

"Jerusalem, the liberation of the occupied territories, all this is no more a problem..."

I would have liked, however, to bear one of the candidates talk about our daily problems — those small problems that are not very important for these gentlemen, but are poisoning our life such as disappearing apples, followed by pears and onions. Hospitals, medical care, telephones, water and its extravagant bills, roads, trees that have been "shaved", social security... But it goes without saying that our candidates can take care of these problems easily since they can liberate Jerusalem. Good Luck, gentlemen, and may the best man win.

Shortwave listeners are to buy new sets

By Michael Roddy
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Changes are in store for shortwave radio. Over the next 20 years, millions of listeners throughout the world will have to buy new receivers — or else the voices they hear will become so high-pitched they'll eventually be unintelligible.

"It's going to be a lot like listening to Donald Duck" — the popular cartoon character whose voice is like a seeded-up phonograph record, says Walter Ireland, a communications specialist with the U.S. State Department in Washington.

The reason is a recent decision by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), a United Nations agency, to convert the world standard for shortwave radio broadcasts from the double-sideband transmission system currently used to single sideband.

The change, under discussion for 10 years, will open up more space on the crowded shortwave dial, but also will render many existing receivers, and transmission equipment, obsolete, a spokesman for the ITU in Geneva said.

It will be done gradually, over 20 years, so receivers and transmitters designed for the double sideband broadcasts will work for a while, but eventually they will

not be compatible, the spokesman said.

At the end of the 20 years still remaining double sideband (equipment) will not be in a position to operate," said the spokesman, who asked not to be identified.

"The 20 years duration will permit making the transformation at the lowest cost" because existing receivers have an estimated lifespan of about 10 years while transmitters are good for about 15, he added.

The decision to make the changeover was agreed upon at a Geneva conference in mid-February of 575 delegates from 115 countries. A date for starting the changeover is to be set at a follow-up conference in 1986.

Although no one knows exactly how many people listen to shortwave, Leonard Marks, a Washington attorney who headed the U.S. delegation to the conference, estimated in a telephone interview that at least 100 million will be affected, many of them in Third World countries and Eastern Europe.

Communications specialists say the change will provide about a third more broadcasting channels than now are available, thus opening up space on the crowded shortwave dial.

Third World countries lobbied strongly for the changes, U.S. sources said.

"The developing countries... feel they're not getting a fair break

from the big guns" in access to the airwaves, Ireland said.

But those nations also were aware of the enormous cost involved, which is why they wanted to go slow.

"Not everybody can afford to get a new receiver," Mr. Marks said. "That's why the Third World countries did not want an early inauguration."

According to the ITU spokesman, the changeover will be made by reducing by degrees the strength of the "carrier" radio frequency double sideband receivers depend on to pick up broadcasts, so owners of existing receivers will be able to use them for several years.

"They did not want to put too many receivers out of business," said a radio specialist for the U.S. Federal Communications Commission who asked not to be identified.

However, Michael Brubaker, vice president for sales of R.I. Drake Co., a U.S. manufacturer of shortwave equipment, said many receivers now in use eventually will have to be scrapped.

"It's going to take the (inexpensive) transistor radio type of product and make it incompatible," he said.

He estimated it would cost between 25 and \$100 to provide the additional circuitry needed for single sideband reception on new receivers. He said devices to adapt

existing receivers are "not very reliable."

In double sideband transmission, voice or music is transmitted electronically in two sidebands surrounding a carrier frequency. In single sideband, the carrier frequency is suppressed or eliminated and the broadcast uses just one of the sidebands for transmission, freeing the remaining sideband for other use.

Some experts say the quality of broadcasts will be improved, because all of the power of the transmission goes into the sideband containing music or voice. But others say it is harder to tune in single sideband accurately, so "single sideband does not sound as good," said Bruce Kadane, a spokesman for the American Radio Relay League, an organization of amateur radio operators.

Manufacturers and broadcasters are just beginning to wake up to the changes in store. Matsushita Electric Industries, one of Japan's largest radio manufacturers and the seller of equipment under the Panasonic brand name in many countries, has developed a prototype of a single sideband receiver, but has no immediate plans to market it, said Ken Shimba, publicity representative at the company's U.S. corporate headquarters in New Jersey.

"We are ready technologically... but we don't know the market size," Mr. Shimba said.

Now politics make Pozzuoli tremble

As residents fume, James Buxton reports on plans for the town the ancients believed was the entrance to hell.

POZZUOLI — The meeting on the future of Pozzuoli, the town near Naples which thousands of earth tremors have rendered partially uninhabitable, was an event in itself.

Outside the iron railings round the hotel where it was held, a small but noisy band of irate townspeople whistled abusively and surged against armed policemen. Inside, nearly a dozen politicians and experts dined on for more than three hours.

All the time, putrid sulphur fumes coursed through the air from the nearby extinct volcano which had been shaken only that morning by a tremor measuring almost four on the Richter Scale.

A demonstrator burst into the room and launched into a torrent of indignant protest. But only a few Neapolitan gestures were needed from Mr. Vincenzo Scotti, the minister for civil protection, to quell the disruption.

Mr. Scotti, whose previous success was fettering Italy's trade unions to agree to a reduction in wage indexation, is grappling with one of the most intractable problems of European government. Nearly two miles below Pozzuoli, which is on the north side of the Bay of Naples, is a restless mass of volcanic matter. Early last year it began causing earth tremors and

the level of the city has been gradually raised.

By last August, when the inhabitants of the town took to the streets in protest, there had already been more than 2,000 tremors. By the end of the year, parts of the town, including the basin of the harbour, had risen more than a metre, leaving fishing boats high and dry and disrupting the ferry traffic to the islands of Ischia and Procida.

Technically, Pozzuoli is suffering from a "Bradyseism" or slow earthquake. The repeated shocks have so damaged buildings in the old centre of Pozzuoli — an attractive jumble of colourwashed houses on a point by the sea — that they are uninhabitable.

Some 43,000 people out of the town's population of 75,000 have left. Most are with relatives, but others are staying in tents erected by the army, in caravans, and hotels. Even holiday homes along the coast have been requisitioned over the protest of their genteel owners.

The Bradyseism shows no signs of abating even when it does die down there is every reason to suppose that it will recur in a few years' time (it last occurred in 1970). Seismologists do not rule out the possibility of a sudden volcanic eruption: in 1538 a little

mountain emerged in only a week after two years of tremors.

You can walk into the crater of Solfatara, the extinct volcano above the town, and see the ground bubbling and gurgling as sulphurous steam pours out like an ever-smoking bonfire. Not surprisingly, the ancient Greeks and Romans believed it was one of the entrances to the underworld.

After the initial chaos of the evacuation the authorities moved fast, perhaps mindful of the then forthcoming local elections in Naples where Mr. Scotti is a Christian Democrat boss. They decided to reduce the population of the old town permanently, because it lies at the epicentre of most tremors, and would be hard to evacuate in emergency because it is hemmed in.

The present idea is for parts of the old centre to be rebuilt in a less congested way, leaving spaces which could become parks where delighted archaeologists could dig through layers of Greek and Roman history.

While about half the evacuated population would go back, the half is destined to go to a specially-built new town at Monte Ruscello, about three miles inland from the old centre. Land has been appropriated and Parliament has approved the spending of Lire 400 billion (\$253.3 million) on 4,000 homes for 20,000 people.

Monte Ruscello is an area of

low seismic risk and the plan of the new town, drawn up by the University of Naples, is based on that of the Greek colony of Miletus in Asia Minor — appropriate, considering that Pozzuoli was founded by Greek colonists.

Communications with the rest of Pozzuoli will be improved and Professor Loris Rossi, head of the project, says that the Pozzuoli of the future will be a "linear" or "polycentric" city rather than one clustered around one centre.

Work on Monte Ruscello could start in a few months.

As the architects see it, the town will resume commercial activity. The port, fishing harbour and large fishmarket, already reviving, will be aided by the building of floating quays, so that the rise of the land will matter less. Tourists will saunter round a repaired and spruced old centre.

But will it really be like that? The plan has already been attacked by environmentalists who say that Monte Ruscello will be a "ghetto" and the old Pozzuoli a "ghost town" — though it could hardly be worse than it is now.

Qill the people of old Pozzuoli, whose ancestors have lived there for 27 centuries, be prepared to move? "Who is to go would be a problem in any country," says Mr. Ennio de Crescenzo, an architect working on the project.

— Financial Times news feature.

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Hosts Ivory Coast ousted from African Nations Cup

ABIDJAN (R) — Hosts Ivory Coast were dumped out of the African Nations Soccer Cup Saturday night, beaten 2-0 by a composed and more experienced Cameroun team.

The result ended Ivorian dreams of winning the cup for the first time and threatened financial disaster for the African Football Confederation (CAF), the cup organisers.

CAF officials were counting on the hosts reaching the semi-final stage at least, but Cameroun's 1982 World Cup stars put an end to that always improbable ambition.

Now the likely prospect of half-empty stadia in Abidjan and Bouake will deprive CAF of vital revenue from Africa's premier soccer tournament.

Incredibly Saturday night's crunch decider with Cameroun did not attract a full house in the 35,000 capacity Houphouët-Boigny stadium here.

Only 25,000 people turned up for the most crucial match in Ivory Coast's soccer history despite months of strenuous media exhortations to support "the Elephants".

Live television coverage, fears of violence around the stadium — which proved unfounded — and

greater identity with clubs than with the national team were all advanced as possible explanations for the lack of enthusiasm.

The Ivorian manager, Simeone Zinsou, was gracious in defeat and acknowledged that Cameroun's "Indomitable Lions" were technically better-armed and drew on the experience of players like Roger Milla, who scored the first with a classic header, Theophile Abega and the Cairo-based keeper Antoine Bell.

He described the match as a "collective failure", denying charges from dejected Ivorian journalists that wrong players were picked.

"We had 60 days to try to build a team, instead of years," he said, referring to the two months intensive build-up which saw the Ivorians win a string of matches against second-rate opposition.

Over 1.25 million was spent trying to force the "Elephants" into the top class of African teams, but Cameroun showed there is still some way to go.

After finishing second in Group

A behind Egypt, the Lions will play their semi-final in Bouake against Algeria or Nigeria who meet in the provincial city Sunday night in Group B.

The Egyptians, who had already qualified for the semi-finals by beating Ivory Coast and Cameroun, cruised through their last match Saturday night drawing 0-0 with Togo in a lacklustre match.

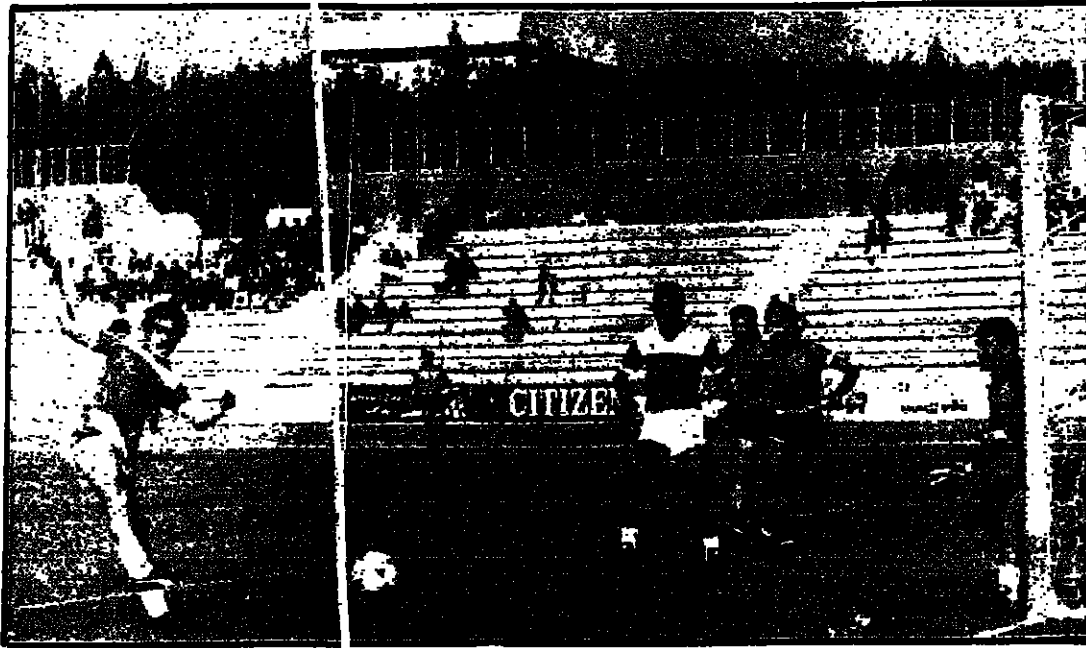
It was the tournament's first goalless draw and Togo, a disappointing and ill-organised outfit, were lucky to go home with a single point from three matches.

The Algerians will start favourites against Nigeria after two impressive wins over Ghana and Malawi, who meet in the other match.

Professionals like Bellouni and Madjer, who came on for 20 minutes in the defeat of defending champions Ghana, are in dynamic form and determined to win the 14th African Cup for the first time.

But Nigeria's Green Eagles are confident, despite an embarrassing 2-2 result against Malawi, and could still spring a surprise.

Both will want to win, since the victor will avoid playing a powerful Egyptian side in the Abidjan semi-final.



Jamal Hamza of Al Tirsana the ball after scoring the first goal

Visiting Egyptians beat Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The visiting Egyptian soccer team, Al Tirsana defeated their hosts Amman Football Club Sunday at Amman's Sports City stadium.

Two goals in the first half and three more in the second half made Al Tirsana's tally five goals, while Amman scored a consolation goal in the middle of the second half to end the match at 5-1.

Egypt's first division team arrived in Amman last Wednesday at the invitation of Amman Football Club for a series of friendly matches with Jordanian teams.

In the opening match of their visit on Friday Al Tirsana defeated Al Wihdat Football Club 2-0.

Their remaining matches are against Al Ramtha Football Club and Al Faisali Club on Wednesday and Friday respectively.

Meanwhile Egypt's other visitors Al Ahli Football Club, without their international stars who are playing with the national Egyptian team in the Ivory Coast African Cup tournament, managed a goalless draw against national Jordanian league and cup champions Al Faisali on Saturday.

Al Ahli will play a combination team from Faisali, Jazirah and Al Ahli of Jordan Monday.

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Platini saves Juventus

ROME (R) — Italian league leaders Juventus scraped a 1-1 draw against Sampdoria thanks to a penalty by Frenchman Michel Platini, while champions Roma closed the gap on them with a 2-1 away win over Napoli Sunday.

Irishman Liam Brady, elbowed out of the Juventus squad two seasons ago, marshalled Sampdoria against the Turin all-star side and coolly netted from the spot after Juventus's Gaetano Scirea brought down teenager Roberto Mancini in the box.

Juventus desperately searched for an equaliser, looking badly rattled by their last-minute 1-0 win midweek against Haka of Finland in the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Salvation came six minutes from time when Antonio Cabrini was brought down in front of the Sampdoria goal. Platini unerringly netted from the spot to put himself top of the scorers' table with 18 goals.

Roma looked heartened by their 3-0 midweek Champions Cup win against Dinamo Berlin. Sunday, as then, veteran striker Francesco Graziani opened the scoring, heading a cross from Brazilian Toninho Cerezo after 15

minutes. Early in the second half, Napoli's Brazilian Dirceu floated a well-placed ball for Pasquale Casale to equalise. Dario Bonetti made it 3-1 for Roma minutes later on a pass from Brazilian Roberto Falcao.

Florentina and Verona, both aiming for a UEFA Cup berth, fought a fast and flowing duel in Florence.

Florentina's Argentine Daniel Bertonni struck in the opening minutes and after half an hour Paolo Monelli made it 2-0 for the home side, who are doomed to finish the season without their injured midfield general Giancarlo Antognoni.

Juventus city rivals Torino kept up their UEFA Cup bid with a 2-1 win over struggling Genoa. Argentine Patricio Hernandez clinched it for Torino with 20 minutes to spare.

Relegation candidates Catania looked set to score their second win of a disastrous debut in the first division when they went ahead against Avellino early in the second half but Peruvian Gerónimo Barbado equalised for a 1-1 scoreline.

French fans acclaim return of Platini

By Derek Parr
Reporter

PARIS — Soccer wizard Michel Platini, who went abroad and conquered new territory, returned to France last week and reclaimed his native kingdom.

A firecracker exploded and thousands paid tribute with cries of "Platini, Platini" as the tousle-haired midfield inspiration illuminated the evening with the two goals which lifted France to their first victory over England since 1963, a 2-0 triumph two weeks ago.

It was not bad for the young man who was turned down by first division club Metz after emptying his lungs into a spirometer only to learn he had "very feeble respiratory capacity (and cardiac insufficiency)".

But unless French team chief Michel Hidalgo manages to persuade the sorcerer's Italian masters of Juventus Turin otherwise, it will be the last time Platini will captain France before the opening match of the European Championship finals against Denmark here on June 12.

Yet, whatever Hidalgo's luck in securing Platini's release for four more international warm-up matches, it was a fitting way to take temporary leave of the Parc des Princes stadium.

The cheers rang far sweeter than the boos which assailed him the last time he played here for Juventus against Paris Saint-Germain in the European Cup-Winners' Cup last October.

Since that sad evening, Platini has been crowned European Footballer of the Year, the first Frenchman to win the honour since Raymond Kopa 25 years before.

Like Kopa, who enjoyed his greatest glory as a deep-lying centre-forward with the magnificent Real Madrid sides of the 1950's, Platini had to take the route to exile to realise his full potential as one of the most ex-

iting players in the world-ranking alongside Rummenigge and Rossi, Zico and Maradona.

His performance against England overshadowed the considerable skills of rival midfielders Bryan Robson and Glenn Hoddle on Wednesday, while in the Italian league his scoring is matched only by Pele's Brazilian heir Zico.

"He's dangerous of course," England manager Bobby Robson said on the eve of the match. "He's a goal-provider and a goal-scorer. He's always in the game, demanding and commanding. We know his attributes."

Awareness of Platini's sleek skills, however, was not enough for England, whose defence — one of the most competent in Europe — was shredded by the master's raking passes and caught wrong-footed by his goals.

Those two strikes — a looping header and an arrowing free kick — finished England and brought Platini to within one goal of the French international record of 27 held by just Fontaine.

The accuracy of his free kicks stems from the practice his father, an ex-footballer and his son's guiding master, put him through as a teenager, setting up dummies for the boy to thread his shots past.

The goals brightened an undistinguished night and commanded the admiration of everyone in the stadium except those England followers who had come to goggle lumps out of France, French fans, and — when that paled — each other.

"It's a beautiful week for me. Scoring two goals in the Italian Championship against local rivals Torino! and two for the French team. I'm going through a good patch," Platini said.

Yet, oddly, he never really won the hearts of French fans when he piloted Nancy to a domestic cup triumph and Saint Etienne to the league title.

To his detractors, he was distant — even arrogant. "I know I'm not popular, but I've decided to ignore praise as well as jeers," he said before packing his bags and seeking new challenges and a fortune in Italy, the land his impoverished forbears left to take a chance in the industrial east of France.

Juventus snapped him up a few months after he had inspired France to a 2-0 win over Italy, leaving his bemused marker Marco Tardelli — scourge and downfall of many a fancy player — sighing: "I've never suffered so much."

After the 1982 World Cup, Platini and Tardelli were on the same side at Juventus, who have just extended the French star's contract to 1986.

If the French public had reservations about Platini, the 28-year-old midfielder has not made enemies inside football, and his relations with coaches and fellow players are harmonious.

MUSIC?

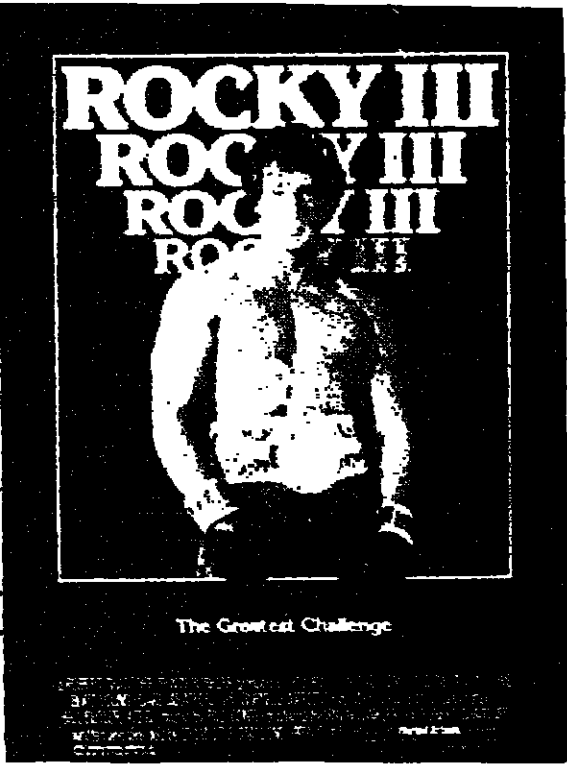
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Campbell of U.S. clocks fastest 60m hurdles time

COSFORD, England (R) — American Tonie Campbell treated a 4,000 crowd to a double record breaking performance Saturday as he ran the world's fastest 60 metres hurdles indoors this year.

Campbell, competing in a men's international between the U.S. and Britain, clocked 7.58 seconds to clip .06 seconds of a second off the British all-comers record he established in the corresponding match last year and .04 of a second off the American best held by

Renaldo Nehemiah since 1979.

But Campbell's day ended in disappointment as Britain snatched a one-point victory in the match with a thrilling win in the final event, the 4x400 metres relay.

Phil Brown, something of a specialist in retrieving seemingly lost causes in relays, made up a 15 metres deficit on the last leg to give Britain victory in three minutes 07.11 seconds.

Londoners John Herbert and Ade Mafe also had a good day.

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Pharmaceutical industry is suffering

LONDON — The industry which aims to cure disease is suffering from some serious ailments of its own these days. Although they have yet to be listed in any medical journals, researchers have compiled the following list:

Orallexia nervosa: A nervous disorder which has infected drug companies and health departments world-wide following the recent withdrawal of a number of drugs. Side-effects: Painful delays on new drug approvals; slow degeneration of public confidence.

Acute Viral Cost-Cutting Simplex: A rapidly spreading virus which is triggered by major government and private initiatives aimed at reducing the costs of health care. Particularly virulent strains reported in the U.K., France, U.S., Japan and Greece. Side-effects: Profit-growth deficiency for many affected companies.

Hyperprofitosis: An insidious disease which infects companies which are particularly successful at selling drugs. Side-effects: Rashes of public outrage, increased government regulation, excessively excitable share prices.

Hashimoto's Revenge: A nervous disease which only infects large European and American drug companies; caused by the increasing success of Japanese companies in drug innovation. Symptoms relieved by rapid licensing of Japanese products.

Companies, of course, don't catch diseases. But the problems listed above are very real ones, which are seriously affecting drug companies world-wide.

They are not of a life-threatening nature — the making and selling of drugs has been a robustly profitable business even during the recent recession. But in an industry in which losers are companies which earn 10 per cent on their sales as opposed to 25 per cent or more, the ranks of losers over the next year or so look very likely to swell.

Troubles are numerous

The troubles have arrived on a number of fronts at once. A world-wide drive to contain health care costs is putting fierce pressure on drug prices and that pressure is expected to mount.

The industry's public image has taken a drubbing in the past year as a clutch of new drugs have been taken off the market following reports of serious side-effects and deaths.

The next line of products, which are expected both to cure a wide range of diseases and cause minimal side-effects, are still many years from realisation.

For American and European drug companies the pressures are aggravated by stiffening competition from the Japanese who have targeted the sector as a crucial one for international growth.

Traditionally strong in antibiotics, the Japanese are now moving into many other therapeutic areas.

The \$115 billion a year world pharmaceutical industry has long been dominated by a small group of American, West German and Swiss multinationals who discovered many of today's important drugs and sold them world-wide in an inconspicuous but highly efficient manner.

In order to maintain a powerful product range in every major market, these giants developed the technique of licensing drugs from smaller companies (and sometimes each other), usually reimbursing the licensee with a royalty fee.

In sales terms, this order remains, with companies like Hoechst and Bayer of West Germany, Ciba-Geigy and Hoffmann-La Roche of Switzerland and Eli Lilly and Upjohn of the U.S. still ranked in the top 15 companies world-wide as they have been for decades.

But this old order, in terms of profitability and product innovation, has been subtly shifting. Hoffmann-La Roche, for example, has seen net profit margins shrink to 4 per cent in recent years because of the lack of new products to follow Valium.

At the same time, Smith-Kline from Philadelphia zoomed into the limelight on the strength of the remarkable product, Tagamet, the anti-ulcer drug.

Glaxo of the U.K. looks to be on the same path with its own product for the ulcer market, Zantac.

Japan shows aggressiveness

Japan's growing strength is best reflected by the fact that over the past three years its companies have been responsible for more than 25 per cent of the new product launches world-wide, compared to less than 10 per cent in the 1960s and 1970s.

On their own, these shifts are not necessarily damaging ones — the industry has always been a competitive high-risk one in which companies are often stuck with marketing old products vigorously while waiting for research to come up with something remarkable.

But shifting sands do not make an ideal base on which the industry can combat its current problems.

At the same time, its public image has lost some of its shine. The important advances in health that it has provided — such as helping to add an extra quarter century to the life expectancy of youngsters born in 1980, compared to their great-grandfathers born in 1900 — are now all taken for granted.

Side-effects have become major issue

People today have heightened

expectations for medical breakthroughs and are more insistent than ever that their drugs should be effective, carry a modest price tag and be free of side-effects.

This last requirement is the most difficult for the industry. "We are not trading in magic and the public is not entitled to expect it," says Sir James Black, the prolific British scientist, now at the Wellcome Foundation, Britain's largest pharmaceutical company.

(Sir James was responsible for developing two of the world's best-selling drugs, the H2-antagonists for ulcers and beta blockers for heart disease.)

Nonetheless, side-effects, real or alleged, have become a major issue.

In December, a judge in Columbus, Georgia, awarded a near-record \$6 million in damages to the family of an 81-year-old woman who allegedly died as the result of taking an anti-arthritis drug made by Eli Lilly called Oraflex (Opren in Europe).

Oraflex was withdrawn world-wide in 1982 following reports of a number of deaths associated with the drug's use in the U.K.

The issue was thrown into sharp relief by the decision of Britain's health department to pull yet another drug off the British market — the sixth significant drug withdrawal or suspension in the U.K. in just over a year.

The case is a particularly painful one for the industry as the drug's manufacturer, Farnitalia Carlo Erba, had been censured earlier this year for promoting a drug by taking doctors on the Orient Express to Venice.

In a calculated office in suburban Maryland, Dr. Robert Temple, director of drug review at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, expresses sorrow over these withdrawals. He and others believe that Oraflex was over-promoted, thus damaging the industry as a whole.

"Well, it came back to bite them, it came back to bite everybody, to bite the whole industry," says Dr. Temple.

The antidote for these bites, the industry believes, lies with producing safer, more effective drugs. Across from Lilly's sprawling red-brick headquarters, a \$60 million research complex is under construction. That facility, Lilly hopes, will give its scientists the resources necessary to find the answers to a host of chronic conditions, such as asthma and arthritis, as well as cancer and heart disease.

Scientists at the other major companies echo the same theme: The breakthrough to understanding the process of the body at the cellular level is in hand. The next wave of drugs will actually direct themselves to the source of the problem, rather than affect the whole body. They will help to cure, rather than treat; they will help protect the body from attack.

Some of these drugs already exist, Tagamet, and the beta blockers pioneered by ICI. But the next stage, scientists caution, will take between seven and 10 years before even clinical trials can begin. And in the meantime, the

industry must fight off a challenge from another quarter.

Price of health care is under serious review

Long tolerated by a public grateful for any new medical advance, the price of health care is now under serious review the world over.

Statistics abound, but perhaps one of the most significant is General Motors' recent disclosure that it pays more for employee health insurance than it does for the steel in its cars.

Just last October, the U.S. government radically changed the system for reimbursement for federally-sponsored Medicaid and Medicare programmes.

These schemes will now reimburse hospitals according to a fixed scale of fees, as opposed to an open-ended reimbursement per patient. In looking for economies, hospitals are expected to start by squeezing the drug companies.

Furthermore, doctors and hospitals throughout the U.S. are beginning to organise into units which promote themselves to companies as a cheap alternative to established health insurance programmes.

These units, called Preferred Provider Organisations, are run by administrators who are already proving to be less receptive to salesmen bearing expensive new drugs when effective, cheaper therapy for the disease in question may already exist.

Similar moves have been catching on around the globe.

None goes out of business

"We're going to be seeing a lot more pressure on pricing, marketing and promotion world-wide," predicts Dr. Bernard Canavan, a Scotsman who is president of Wyeth International, a division of American Home Products, one of the world's largest drug companies.

"In fact, when they do put the squeeze on pharmaceutical companies, none of them go out of business. They complain and they bitch, but they are still there. So governments have an incentive to squeeze more."

The industry is already preparing itself for these cuts with a two-pronged strategy: One, find more cost-effective drugs; two, prove the cost-effectiveness of drug therapy through new research.

Unfortunately, in the first case, many of the companies are rushing down the same road.

For example, every major U.S. company is now looking for a powerful, oral antibiotic which will need fewer administrations and will thus free hospital staff time for other chores.

"Will we need 19 of these things?" asks an FDA executive. Nevertheless, new products are the key.

"The only weapons we've got are better products," says Mr. Barry Cohen, head of Merck's international division. "If we don't find them, then we don't deserve to succeed." — Financial Times news feature.

British miners look split over strike call

LONDON (R) — Britain's 180,000 coal miners appeared split Sunday over trade union calls for an all-out strike against pit closures, and support seemed to be emerging for a national ballot of members to decide the issue.

The left-wing leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers has resisted pressure for such a ballot after failing in previous years to win the necessary 55 per cent support for two strike recommendations.

The present dispute accelerated after the state-run National Coal Board announced plans for the phased shutdown of 20 pits, officially deemed uneconomical, with the loss of 20,000 jobs.

Local strikes in the biggest coalfield, in the north English region of Yorkshire, and in Scotland, were declared official by union leaders who expressed hope that a domino effect would bring out the other areas.

A national coal strike 10 years ago led to a general election in which the then Conservative prime minister, Mr. Edward Heath, lost to the left-of-centre Labour Party.

But now commentators say that miners are apparently less willing to lose pay and follow their leaders

without question into a confrontation with Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Strikes have also been called in Durham in northeast England and Kent in southeast England, but other coalfields are holding local votes or meetings to decide their action.

Yorkshire is expected to be solidly behind the stoppage, but there were heated differences Saturday among Scottish miners, normally a militant area.

A meeting at the biggest of Scotland's 10 pits — Bilston Glen near Edinburgh — ended in uproar after some men demanded a vote on the strike call and then tried to pass a vote of no confidence in the local union committee.

The strike climaxes five months of unrest arising from a union ban on overtime working in support of a wage claim and the refusal of the board to make concessions.

Egypt about to change foreign exchange rules

CAIRO (R) — Egypt is about to introduce new exchange regulations to prevent trading of foreign currency on the illegal free market in what economic experts here see as an effective devaluation of the Egyptian pound.

The regulations, recommended by Egypt's central bank, are designed to unify Egypt's diverse foreign exchange rates and to attract remittances through legal channels by an estimated 3.5 million Egyptians who work in Arab oil-producing states or elsewhere.

Officials said this would be done by setting a rate of L12 pounds to the U.S. dollar for remittances of workers against an official rate of 0.84 pounds to the dollar.

Last year, private banks were authorised to offer an incentive rate somewhat better than the official rate to attract workers' money. This rate went up to 1.08 pounds to the dollar late last year.

The officials said the regulations also involve the financing of imports without the need to transfer currency.

This could be done by either authorising cashiers' offices to provide foreign currency for imports or to arrange for foreign banks to finance import transactions without transfer of currency.

The economic experts noted that the move would only amount to removal of a "smoke screen" since much of the money remitted by workers abroad has been cashed on the free market.

They said it would do nothing to help Egypt's economy, strained by a population of nearly 47 million and foreign debts of \$16 to \$19 billion.

Total remittances by Egyptians, now the chief source of foreign currency, are expected to top \$3 billion for the fiscal year ending June 30.

Cresson seeks Qatari investments in France

DOHA (R) — French Foreign Trade and Tourism minister Edith Cresson Sunday held talks with Qatar's ruler, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, on possible Qatari investments in France.

Mrs. Cresson, who arrived here Saturday night on the third leg of a Middle East tour, told reporters a delegation from the French finance ministry was due here in May to discuss the prospects of Qatari investments.

Mrs. Cresson said the fall in her country's trade volume with Qatar last year was due to world recession. France's policy of diversifying the sources of its oil supplies and its growing dependence on energy sources other than oil.

OPEC fund to sign eight new agreements

VIENNA (OPECNA) — The OPEC Fund for International Development will sign agreements for seven loans and one grant Monday with developing countries from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

According to an official source, the amount involved will be over \$33 million.

The loans will be for projects in agriculture, roads, irrigation, water supply, sewerage and hydro-electricity.

The grant will be for subscription to the Common Fund for Commodities.

Ministers of finance, public works and planning are expected to sign on behalf of the recipients.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An unusually good day and evening to make a success in your long-range plans. Improve your home and family conditions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Make conditions at home more as you want them to be. Handle business affairs well. Invite guests into your home.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Improve your possessions as well as association matters. State your aims to partners and gain their cooperation. Have fun.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Improve the value of your holdings with the aid of experts. Get more than one estimate before coming to a decision about repairs. **MOON CHILDREN** (June 22 to Jul. 21) Go after your personal aims without all that deliberating. Contact friends who can be helpful in social matters.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Seek out experts in your field so that you can advance more quickly. Later be romantic with your mate and have a delightful time together.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Expand your interests and become more affluent. Be with good friends who can be helpful to you. State your aims clearly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Good day to make progress in the outside world and in personal affairs. Make you home the center of your activities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Any changes you feel are for the best can now be made in the A.M. Follow your hunches particularly where it concerns new contacts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Fine day for making deals with others. Be more romantic with your mate and have a wonderful time together.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Agreement with partners is possible today since they will listen to your views. Come to a meeting of minds with others.

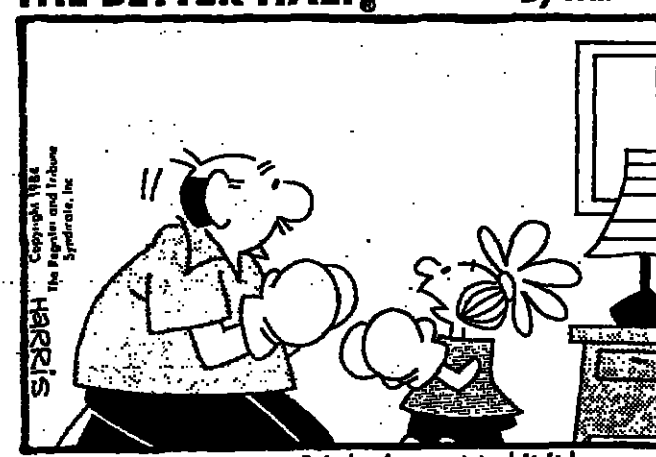
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get every phase of your job attended to today. If a co-worker has been difficult, try to remedy the problem. Take it easy tonight. **PISCES** (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study your amusements and, know which you want to indulge in. Command a greater income. Perfect your finest talents.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one who will understand the needs and desires of the public. Teach to be more objective so that a martyr complex will not develop. One who is eager to make money and will not care for too much formal education.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Where's your male ego? I don't want to hit it because Aunt Harriet says it's very fragile!"

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

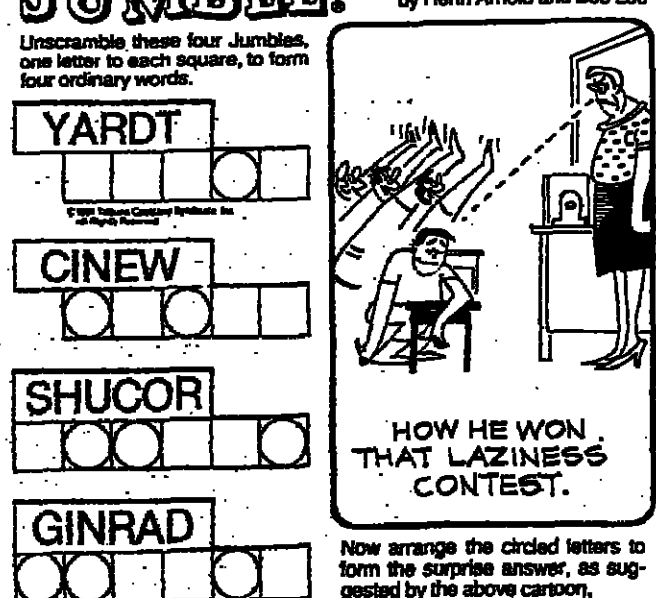


Andy Capp



JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



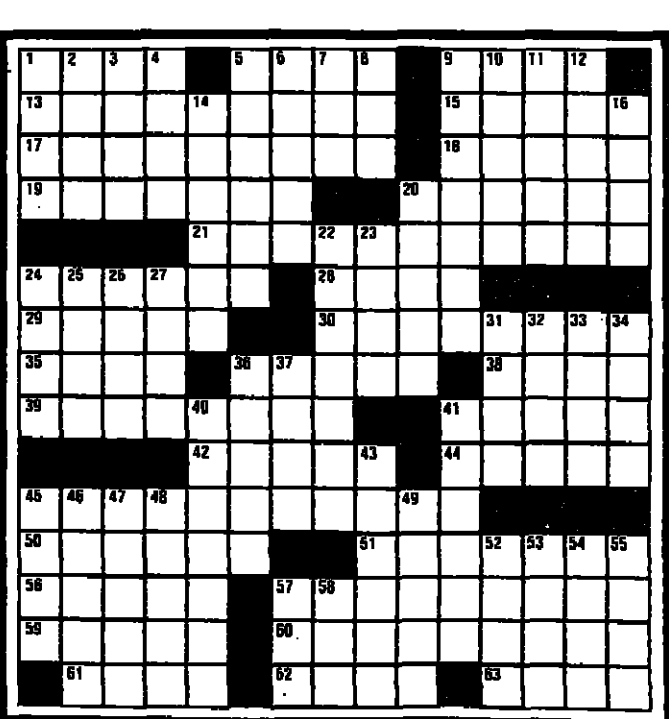
Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ESSAY PUPPY FACTOR DINGHY
Answer: This player "botched" his part — "HARPIST"

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitten

ACROSS	28 Farm unit	59 Grown person	24 Food fish
1 Husband of Jazazel	29 Egyptian god	60 Changes the structure of	25 Tonnelle
5 Locomotive sections	30 Irritating persons	61 Pub. orders	26 Cupid
9 Dogpatch creator	35 Shortly	62 Gang follower	27 Relative
13 Underground vault	36 Houston athlete	63 USSR negative	28 Arab prince
15 Molly	38 Leave out	1 Experts	33 Carnival attraction
17 US dramatist	39 Aversion	2 Stop	34 Printer's word
18 Tennyson	41 Stay	3 Vapor	40 Upward slopes
19 Webb film	42 Bart or Ringo	4 Max or Buddy	41 Patterned vowel
20 Computer memory	44 Flat cap	5 Short-legged dogs	42 Make brake drum repair
21 Season	45 US philanthropist	6 Swiss writer	43 Movie lion
22 Keystone State founder	50 Frog, often	7 Eng. telly monogram	44 F. Scott's wife
24 Filches	51 Student	8 Comp. pt.	45 Duff painter
	52 US painter	9 Peace pipe	46 "Behold — horse"
	57 US philanthropist	10 "His word burned like —"	47 The Merry Widow
		11 Feather mark: abbr.	48 Kansas miler
		14 Moves slowly	49 Not any
		16 Story	50 Robt. —
		20 Florentine painter	51 Relax
		22 Light giver	52 McMahon and Ames
		23 Bakery worker	58 Permit



Hart beats Mondale in Wyoming caucuses

CHEYENNE, Wyoming (R) — Senator Gary Hart scored his fourth consecutive victory over former Vice President Walter Mondale in the Democratic presidential race by winning a majority of delegates in Wyoming state caucuses Sunday.

The Colorado senator won 61 per cent of the vote compared to 36 per cent for Mr. Mondale in the state's 23 county caucuses.

Sen. Hart had been favoured to win Wyoming and Hart organisers called the voting "an overwhelming victory." But Mr. Mondale's State Co-ordinator Tom Cosgrove said that because Sen. Hart's margin was not larger, it was a "moral victory" for Mr. Mondale.

A record caucus turnout gave Sen. Hart 2,120 votes to Mr. Mondale's 1,267. Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson won 15 votes, former Senator George McGovern eight, and Ohio Senator John Glenn three. There were 104 uncommitted votes.

Sen. Hart, preparing for his big challenge to Mr. Mondale in nine state primary polls and caucuses on Tuesday, told reporters in Washington:

"I have always said I thought that the (Republican-dominated) western states could be brought into the Democratic column and

that a western candidate could do it."

Dave Freudenthal, state Democratic chairman, said Sen. Hart carried at least seven and perhaps eight of the dozen Wyoming delegates at stake. The delegates will vote at the Democratic convention this summer that will nominate the challenger to President Reagan.

Mondale did not campaign in Wyoming. Sen. Hart visited the state five times in the last year, and his wife and daughter recently campaigned there.

Poll favours Hart

The surge in favour of Sen. Hart over Mr. Mondale in the Democratic Party presidential nomination contest is unprecedented, according to a new opinion poll released in New York Saturday.

The poll also showed that if elections were held now Sen. Hart would be trailing Ronald Reagan by only four per cent—40 to 44—of the vote while Mr. Mondale

would lag behind Mr. Reagan 33 to 50.

The poll, conducted by CBS News, showed that in just two weeks support for Sen. Hart among people voting in Democratic primary elections rose from seven per cent to 38 per cent. Backing for Mr. Mondale slumped from 57 per cent to 31 per cent.

The earlier figures were registered in a CBS-New York Times poll conducted just before the New Hampshire primary 11 days ago in which Sen. Hart scored an upset victory over Mr. Mondale.

CBS said: "A comparable transformation of public opinion on any subject is hard to recall. Certainly, in the history of the polling of presidential preference there is none."

The poll involved a random sampling of 1,744 people, of whom 567 were potential Democratic primary voters. A Gallup poll two days ago put Sen. Hart ahead of Mr. Reagan 52 to 43 per cent.

Scientists support Hart

WORCESTER, Massachusetts (R) — Senator Gary Hart Saturday received the backing of scientists dedicated to an international nuclear freeze while campaigning for Tuesday's major round of Democratic presidential primary elections.

"We must provide the moral leadership to stop and halt and dramatically reverse the most dangerous nuclear arms race once and for all," Sen. Hart told a cheering rally.

Sen. Hart said he supported negotiating a freeze on the production and deployment of new nuclear weapons, a moratorium on testing such weapons, a ban on armaments in space and an end to nuclear proliferation in non-nuclear countries.

Carl Sagan, author of several books on the universe and a prominent proponent of a freeze, was one of the scientists backing the Colorado senator.

Sen. Hart is expected to gain a solid victory in the Massachusetts primary and to score well in southern states.

Asked what he would do as president about the dangerous growth of indebtedness of Third World countries, Sen. Hart said the United States had no choice but to back loans through international lending organisations to Brazil and other nations that appeared capable of recovery.

'Super Tuesday' to decide Hart's future as Democratic candidate

By David Nagy
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Booming support for rising presidential contender Gary Hart will get its first nationwide test on Tuesday when nine states from the Atlantic to Hawaii ballot for Democratic candidates.

The 47-year-old Colorado Senator, who is running as a new generation leader in the mould of the late President Kennedy, swept to victory in three small New England states with heavily white and rural populations.

On what has been dubbed "super Tuesday", Democrats and independents in nine states from the Atlantic coast to Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean will cast votes in primary and caucus ballots for 505 of the 3,933 delegates who will choose the Democratic candidate at the party convention in July.

Blacks and whites, farmers and city dwellers, rich and poor, executives and trades unionists will be voting in a more sweeping test of political strength than anything the meteorically rising Hart has faced so far.

Former Vice-President Walter Mondale, the unquestioned front-runner until the surge of enthusiasm for Mr. Hart, will learn the true value of the backing from organised labour and costly political machine that once made him look unbeatable.

Sen. Hart expected Sunday to take on his badly-shaken rivals Mr. Mondale, Mr. John Glenn, Reverend Jesse Jackson and Mr.

George McGovern in the last television debate before Tuesday's contest.

The major battleground will be the southern states of Florida, Alabama and Georgia but there are also ballots in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Nevada, Oklahoma, Washington state and Hawaii.

The rise of Sen. Hart was so swift that it had pundits scratching their heads in wonder. Balloting on Tuesday will answer the key question whether Sen. Hart, who won support with a vigorous "new ideas" campaign, is a flash in the pan.

Mr. Mondale now calls himself the underdog in "a fight for the soul of the Democratic Party."

Sen. Hart's popularity has

NEWS ANALYSIS

shown a startling rise in the four biggest states voting next Tuesday although he had been virtually ignored until the past week.

Opinion polls, a measure of shifting sentiments, now have him leading Mr. Mondale in Massachusetts, gaining fast in Florida and Alabama and even stirring excitement in Georgia, home of Mr. Mondale's ally and former boss, ex-President Jimmy Carter.

Sen. Hart aides are carefully avoiding expressions of high expectations, however, and Sen. Hart rivals are conceding nothing.

"The situation is so volatile that no one can tell you today what's going to happen on Tue-

nesday," said Mondale Campaign Manager Bob Beckel. "But I'm looking to win some and I think it's going to be a tight race in nearly all the states."

Sen. Hart Campaign Manager Oliver Henkel said Mr. Mondale was still the frontrunner and no-one expected Tuesday to lock things up for Sen. Hart. On Sen. Hart's 71-40 per cent landslide win in Vermont, he said: "People will be flabbergasted. It demonstrates Gary's very broad appeal and the inherent weaknesses of our opponent."

Some Mondale aides said they thought the Hart surge had peaked but strategists for Ohio Senator John Glenn, space hero who faded after beatings in the early votes, counted on a continued Hart boom to rescue their candidate from extinction.

"We've detected both in our own polling and in our field work a very strong surge for Hart and a collapse of support for Mondale in what could be Glenn's best areas: Alabama, Georgia and parts of Florida," said Glenn Spokesman Michael McCurry.

"Our problem is whether we can pick up some of the volatile support that is drifting away from Mondale." Polls have so far picked up no such Glenn rebound.

The joker in the pack on Tuesday will be black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, getting his first real chance to demonstrate that he is the political leader of minority groups. More than a quarter of the people of Alabama and Georgia are black.

Sikh leader denies allegations of terrorism

VIENNA (R) — Militant Indian Sikh leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, in an interview published here, has denied allegations that his movement engaged in terrorism.

Mr. Bhindranwale, interviewed by the Vienna monthly Das Magazin, said he and his followers wanted to remain part of the Indian state, but did not want to be treated "like slaves."

The 36-year-old mystic was asked in Amritsar about allegations that control over Sikh pressure groups, known as Morcha, had been lost and that they had become terrorist organisations.

"These charges are false. Neither have we lost control, nor have terrorists taken over the leadership, nor are the Sikhs divided," he said.

The Sikh leader denied that his followers included fugitive terrorists. "Here I fulfil my religious duties. I preach in the spirit of our religion and I stand for the unity of our country. Does that make me a criminal?"

"Now, the people here about me live and think in the same way and still the government describes me as an extremist and my people as terrorists," he said.

Asked for his views on the so-called "Khalistan" Movement to create a separate Sikh state, he said: "We, the Sikhs, want to remain in India but we want to have equal rights and not be dealt with like slaves."

France cites repeated Spanish fishing violations

PARIS (R) — The French government said Saturday a naval action against two Spanish trawlers this week followed repeated official complaints to Madrid about Spanish vessels violating fishing limits.

A statement from the prime minister's office said the French authorities recorded 1,195 such incidents last year, and in six of them French personnel had been assaulted.

Despite protests to the Spanish government the violations were increasing and 432 had been noted in the first two months of this year, the statement said.

It said last Wednesday's "deplorable events" came in this context. Nine Spanish fishermen were injured on Wednesday when a French gunboat opened fire on their vessels in the Bay of Biscay, but the French statement said the rules of International Law had been scrupulously respected during the incident.

The statement added: "In violating international regulations, the fishermen render meaningless the international treaties and agreements signed by Spain as well as the rules of the European Community."

"Everybody must understand that agreements between countries must be respected," it said. The statement gave a detailed account of the naval action, saying

the Spanish boats involved had been committing their 27th and 36th recorded violations respectively.

It said the fishermen ignored warnings from the gunboat and threw into the sea French sailors who tried to board the trawler Burgos-Mendi.

The French ship fired warning shots without effect and then machine-gunned the prow of the trawler after ensuring no crewmen were in the target area.

After warning shots were fired over the other trawler Valle de Achondo without result, the gunboat fired two 100 mm non-explosive shells at it.

When both Spanish vessels continued to try to escape two further rounds were fired at the Valle de Achondo and one of them struck a gantry in the rear of the vessel, injuring the fishermen.

The trawlers then stopped, more than three hours after the action began, the statement said. In Madrid Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said Saturday a French naval action against two Spanish trawlers this week was a step backwards in relations between both countries.

Mr. Gonzalez told a press conference after talks with French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy: "I cannot but note what this serious incident has meant in terms of a step backwards in the restoration of an atmosphere of confidence between the two countries."



The tattered exterior of a shop front in London's Queensway, after a bomb had exploded early Saturday (AP wirephoto)

Britain warns Libya over blast

LONDON (R) — Britain told Libya Saturday night that police suspect Libyan involvement in the planting of five bombs in London and warned that acts of terrorism in this country could harm relations between the two countries.

Two of the bombs exploded early Saturday. One injured 23 people in a nightclub popular with Arabs and another went off outside a shop which sold Arab newspapers but caused no casualties.

The three others, also near shops selling Arabic newspapers, were destroyed in controlled explosions.

Nobody admitted planting the bombs.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe has instructed Britain's ambassador in Tripoli to tell Libya of the police suspicions, a Foreign Office statement said.

"As the Libyans know, the use of British territory for acts of terrorism by any foreign group is totally unacceptable," it said.

"We expect the Libyan authorities to do everything in their power to persuade Libyan residents in London not to commit criminal acts," the statement said. Referring to the killing of two

Libyan exiles, a journalist and a lawyer, by gunmen in London in 1980, it added: "We have made clear on numerous occasions that any repetition of the incidents of 1980 is bound to have a serious effect on our relations."

The head of London's anti-terrorist police, Commander Bill Huckleby, said he was working on the theory that there was a link between the bomb and friction among Libyan factions in London.

Police want to question three Libyans seen leaving the Blue Angel Club, shortly before the explosion, he told a news conference.

India said to have expelled Soviet diplomat for 'spying'

NEW DELHI (AP) — A Soviet diplomat was recently expelled from India on charges of trying to collect classified information, a well-known attorney claimed Saturday.

The statement was made shortly after Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri F. Ustinov left for Moscow at the end of a five-day visit during which he agreed to sell India top-of-the-line fighter jets, electronic surveillance systems, warships, missiles and army hardware.

Lawyer Pran Nath Lekhi said Soviet Assistant Military Attache Nikolai I. Gololobov was ordered expelled Feb. 27 by the Indian government after he was "caught red-handed trying to collect intelligence from one of our officers" of the Indian External Affairs Ministry.

"Gololobov was trying to collect classified information addressed to (Prime Minister) Indira Gandhi by the Bangladesh president (Gen. H.M. Ershad)," Mr. Lekhi said.

Mr. Lekhi, president of the Asian Lawyers' Legal Inquiry Committee and a leader of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party, identified the

Sikh officer as Joint Secretary J.S. Chadha, who denied the allegation.

"This is not correct," Mr. Chadha said. Indian External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao declined to confirm or deny the report.

"It is difficult for me to say yes or no," he told the Associated Press. "I have been busy the last three or four days in party matters, and I do not know what has happened. We need to look into our files and see what the position is."

The minister suggested the report call his office on Monday. Gen. Ershad, who has expelled several Soviet diplomats from Bangladesh, accused the Soviet Union in a recent newspaper interview of trying to topple his military regime.

Mr. Gololobov, who joined the Soviet embassy in New Delhi in February 1982 left for Moscow Feb. 28 on an Aeroflot flight hours after he was served with the order to leave India, Mr. Lekhi quoted informed government sources as saying.

Soviet Military Attache Maj. Gen. Leonid N. Golantsev, asked about the whereabouts of Mr.

Gololobov, said, "he has gone to Moscow for a holiday."

But when told there was a report that Mr. Gololobov had been expelled for espionage activity, Maj. Gen. Golantsev said, "I don't know. Sorry, I don't know."

Mr. Lekhi accused Mr. Rao in a telegram Saturday of "concealing" Mr. Gololobov's expulsion while replying to a question in parliament on March 2. "You deliberately misled public," said the telegram, alleging Mr. Gololobov was an agent of the Soviet intelligence agency, KGB. India and the Soviet Union have good relations. There has been no reported case in the past of the expulsion of a Soviet diplomat from India.

Harry Wertheimer, an American diplomat, reportedly was expelled from India late last year after three retired Indian military officers and a civilian arms dealer were arrested on charges of selling secrets regarding Indian arms purchases from the Soviet Union.

In that case, Maj. Gen. F.D. Larkins confessed before a New Delhi magistrate last Thursday that he received the equivalent of \$10,000 for supplying classified information to U.S. diplomats.

Fire burns through 4 decks of cruise ship

PORT CANAVERAL, Florida (Agencies) — Flames consumed four decks of the cruise ship Scandinavian Sea as it sat in port Saturday night, a day after fire broke out eight kilometres from shore and forced the vessel to speed back from a gambling excursion with 946 people aboard.

At least 29 people, including nine rescue workers, were treated for smoke inhalation because of the fire that erupted in a passenger cabin on the 154 metres vessel around 8 p.m. Friday (0100 GMT Saturday), officials said.

Coast Guard Commander Art Shepherd said the fire was still burning out of control at 10:45 p.m. Saturday (0345 GMT Sunday),

more than 24 hours after it ignited.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Joe Gibson said that by Saturday afternoon the fire had spread to four passenger decks. He said extra breathing equipment was flown in, and out-of-state "strike-force teams" trained in fighting shipboard disasters and oil fires were called to join more than 100 firefighters who had been on the scene since Friday.

"Because of the nature of this vessel — you have metal, watertight walls — the fire is hard to fight. You have to go from compartment to compartment to fight the fire," Mr. Gibson said. The cause of the fire was not

immediately known. But Captain Jack Houts of the Merritt Island Fire Department said the fire was believed to be electrical.

The coast guard commander said the fire fighters had a problem in that "they go through and cool down an area and it seems like it's OK, only to proceed down the passageway and find that it starts up again right behind you."

One passenger, Tom Lynn of Fort Pierce, Florida, said he had just a \$50 jacket on one of the ship's slot machines when passengers were told to assemble on the upper deck and don life vests. "Damn that fire," Mr. Lynn said. "I was on a roll."

Chad aircraft explosion injures 20

N'DJAMENA (R) — About 20 people were injured Saturday when an explosion rocked a French civil airliner preparing to take off from the Chadian capital of N'Djamena, airport sources said.

In Paris a spokesman for the French External Affairs Ministry said a bomb in a suitcase in the hold caused the explosion on board the Uta Airline DC-8.

The aircraft, on its weekly route from Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, to Paris via N'Djamena, was completely destroyed by fire.

Uta in Paris said 19 people were slightly injured, including 13 French nationals.

A coffin containing the body of a young French nurse was on board the aircraft, a spokesman for her organisation, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), said. Marie-Paul Morin was killed in a road accident here last week, the

MSF spokesman said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion, which occurred at 1330 local time (1230 GMT).

The External Affairs Ministry in Paris said 100 passengers were already aboard waiting for take-off. But first reports in N'Djamena said only transit passengers from Bangui were inside and that passengers from N'Djamena had not yet embarked.

The civilian airport is next to a military airbase where French Jaguars, Mirages and transport aircraft are stationed as part of the "Manta" Expeditionary Force backing the government of President Hissene Habre against Libyan-backed rebels.

Anti-Habre groups have several times claimed responsibility for explosions and killings in the Chadian capital, but the incidents have never been confirmed in N'Djamena. Earlier this year a bomb in a

suitcase exploded at Kinshasa Airport in Zaire, shortly after it was unloaded from an aircraft of the Soviet Aeroflot Airline.

Unofficial sources said at the time that the suitcase belonged to Chadian nationals who were apparently planning an attack in N'Djamena.

Chad's Charge d'Affaires in Paris, Ahmad Allam-Mi, later accused "international terrorists" directed by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi of carrying out the attack.

He said his government believed the bomb had been planted on the aircraft before it left Congo on the scheduled flight to Paris via the Central African Republic and Chad.

Mr. Allam-Mi said the bomb could have come only from Brazzaville because it exploded before passengers embarking at N'Djamena or their baggage had been taken to the aircraft.

China's birth rate falls in 1983

PEKING (R) — China pushed down the birth rate of its billion people last year, but a new baby boom looms ahead, the state family planning commission said. The national birth rate fell from 21.09 per thousand in 1982 to 20 per thousand or below last year, the New China News Agency quoted the commission as saying. The population growth rate in 1983 was estimated at 13 per thousand, against 14.49 in 1982, officials said. But about 10 million more women a year will reach child-bearing age in the near future, threatening a new baby boom, and much work is needed if China is to hold its numbers to the target of 1.2 billion by the year 2,000, they added.

North Korean vice president dies

TOKYO (R) — North Korean Vice-President Kim Il died Friday aged 74 after a long illness, the North Korean Central News Agency said Saturday. The agency, monitored in Tokyo, said the Central Committee of the Workers' Party, the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of North Korea formed a 69-member state funeral committee led by President Kim Il-Sung. But the agency gave no date for the state funeral for Kim, who was one of the country's four vice-presidents.

French trail in hygiene

PARIS (AP) — The French use less soap per capita than the Italians, German or British and only one French person in three owns a toothbrush, according to a study released Saturday by the French perfume industry. The average French person goes through two-and-a-half bars, or 640 grammes, of soap a year, the study said, while the Italians use 800 grammes per capita, the British 900 grammes and the West Germans 1.5 kilograms. The 33 per cent of French people who do own their own toothbrush only buy a new one every two years on the average, it reported. About 40 per cent of the French population use deodorants regularly, compared with 90 per cent of the U.S. population. Of the French who do use deodorants, only 20 per cent of them are male, the study said. It said the French tend to be lazy about personal care and that filthiness is "often a sign of a certain disagreement with society in general and a form of protest" by certain French people.

Imelda undergoes eye treatment

MANILA (R) — Imelda Marcos, the wife of the Philippines president, returned home Saturday night after spending 24 days in the United States for urgent eye treatment. A Presidential Palace spokesman said before she left Manila that her doctors had suggested immediate treatment as she was in the danger of losing her eyesight. Informed sources said at the time that she was suffering from glaucoma. There was no statement from the palace Saturday night on the treatment she received.

Ugandan professor compensated

KAMPALA (R) — A high court judge has ordered the Ugandan government to pay 2.3 million shillings (\$9,300) to a professor at Kampala's university as compensation for wrongful arrest, loss of salary and death through neglect of his chickens. Justice Wilson Kityo issued the order in favour of Professor John Mugerwa who was held without charge for two weeks in May 1982 by security forces before being released.

Smokers protected against diarrhoea

LONDON (AP) — Despite the known health hazards of cigarette smoking, non-smokers are six times more likely than smokers to get ulcerative colitis, a disease that results in chronic diarrhoea and poor bowel control, British doctors said Friday. Writing in the British Medical Journal, doctors at Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham said their research suggests that for unknown reasons, "smoking directly or indirectly confers protection against ulcerative colitis."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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PLAY FOR THE ONLY CHANCE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q10742
♥ AK8
♦ 943
♣ J3

WEST
♠ 4
♥ 109763
♦ K7
♣ AK97

EAST
♠ J9
♥ QJ5
♦ Q1086
♣ 8642

SOUTH
♠ AK865
♥ 42
♦ AJ53
♣ 105

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ 2 ♠ 4 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣.

Before playing to the first trick, plan the hand. If there is any combination of cards that will allow you to make your contract, presume that distribution exists.

Declarer ended up in four spades in quick time. North's hand was somewhere between a two, three or four spade bid, and game was as good a compromise as any.

West led the king of clubs. Declarer could see that he

had two sure club losers, and that his problem was to avoid losing two tricks in diamonds as well. If diamonds were 3-3, that could probably not be managed. The best shot was to play West for a singleton or doubleton diamond honor.

After taking his two club tricks, West shifted to a heart. Declarer won in dummy, cashed two high trumps, then cashed the remaining heart honor and ruffed a heart to strip hearts from his hand and dummy. Now declarer led the ace of diamonds.

West realized that, if he followed with a low diamond, he would be end played with the next diamond and forced to yield a sluff-ruff, allowing declarer to get rid of dummy's remaining diamond while ruffing in his hand. To prevent that, he jettisoned his king of diamonds under the ace.

That merely postponed the inevitable for one trick. Declarer crossed to the board with a trump and led a diamond. Whether East rose with the queen or not, one diamond trick was all the defenders were going to collect.